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CHEŁMNO

A GERMAN CAMP IN HISTORY AND PROPAGANDA







CARLO MATTOGNO

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CHEŁMNO. A GERMAN CAMP IN HISTORY AND PROPAGANDA

Carlo Mattogno

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Introduction

The alleged extermination camp at Chełmno (German: Kulmhof), a town in Poland in the region of Warta, called Warthegau by the Germans during the Second World War, is of major importance in orthodox Holocaust historiography, because it is claimed to be the first "death camp" built to serve the genocidal agenda of which the Germans are accused. Unlike other camps established afterwards, it is not said to have been equipped with stationary gas chambers, but with "*Gaswagen*" (gas vehicles),[1] mobile gassing trucks which allegedly used engine-exhaust gas to kill human beings. The camp is said to have operated, with occasional periods of inactivity, in two phases: from 8 December 1941 – the day it opened – to 7 April 1943, and again from April 1944 to January 1945, killing a total of 152,000 to 340,000 people (Jäckel *et al.*, vol. I, p. 280; see Chapter 11).

Documentation about it is almost nonexistent, which is why the picture outlined by orthodox Holocaust historiography is based almost exclusively on court records, which is to say, it is in fact based entirely on testimony. But even these data are rather limited: until 2007 they have only permitted the preparation of the odd leaflet by some Polish historians and a few articles by Western historians. As Israeli historian Shmuel Krakowski, who is currently the world's leading Holocaust expert of the orthodox persuasion, wrote (Krakowski 1995, p. 55):

> *"Research on the extermination camp at Chełmno upon Ner occupies a very small place in Holocaust historiography."*

His 2007 study of this camp, despite its stated intention to "expand the state of knowledge" and to "try to complete what has not been taken into account in the existing literature" (Krakowski 2007, p. 10) actually reflects the accumulated historical-documentary inconsistency of the orthodox Holocaust historiography about Chełmno. He reaffirms, among other things, that "sources on the Chełmno camp are extremely few, hence the insignificant number of publications on the topic" (*ibid.*, p. 11).

In the revisionist school, the most important historiographic contribution is the 2003 article by Ingrid Weckert "What Was Kulmhof/ Chełmno?"

[1] This term became commonplace only after the war.

These studies have inevitably left many gray areas, and the history of the Chełmno camp is still in many aspects enigmatic. One of the most important issues, raised in 1999 by Bertrand Perz and Thomas Sandkühler, concerns the relationship between Chełmno and "Aktion Reinhardt," but even more important is the relationship between the "field incinerators" of Chełmno and cremation at Auschwitz (see Mattogno 2008).

The existence of "gas vans" during the Second World War is very controversial and is disputed by revisionist scholars (see Marais 1994; Weckert 2003; Alvarez 2011). However, the interpretation of documents relating to the alleged "gas vans" (called *Sonderwagen*, *Sonderfahrzeuge*, and *Spezialwagen*) is not the subject of this study, which restricts the scope of its investigation to determining whether such vehicles might have actually been used for the purpose of extermination at Chełmno. Yet even in this limited scope, it is important to initially examine the decision-making process and technical development that would be required to lead to the existence and use of the "gas vans."

1. The Orthodox "Gas Van" History

In a paper setting out the conclusions of Holocaust historiography on the origins of the "gas van," Mathias Beer notes that the first document on this issue dates from 26 March 1942, so that

> *"the path of decisions leading to the construction and the operation/usage of these vans remains obscure."* (Beer 1987, p. 404; all subsequent page numbers from the German version unless stated otherwise)

He claims that the well-known trials held since 1945 can remedy this lack of documentation, although he warns (*ibid.*):

> *"However, the historian is not entitled to use court verdicts without examining them, because justice and historiography pursue different ends. For him* [the historian] *primarily witness testimonies are important, because they help to fill the gaps in the sources. But due to their peculiarities testimonies can be treated on an equal footing with documents, for example, and be used profitably by historical research only if certain principles are observed. The basic requirement is not to abandon the link between witness statements and documents which have been subject to thorough source criticism, that is to say, to always connect the probable with a certain fact.* [But] *even in this way we cannot respond satisfactorily to every question."*

As there are no documents which can be used as a basis of comparison, this means that for Chełmno the testimonies cannot constitute historical sources, so that there cannot even exist a genuine historiography for this camp.

Beer follows the technical development of a euthanasia "gas van" through the intermediate stage of the *"Kaisers-Kaffee-Wagen"* ("Kaiser's Coffee Cart" (pp. 404f.):

> *"Testimonies exist which report that during the evacuation of nursing homes for the mentally ill in Poland in 1939-1940, a hermetically sealed trailer was used with the words 'Kaiser's Coffee Shop'* [*Kaisers-Kaffee-Geschäft*] *on it, which was towed by a tractor. In the trailer sick persons are said to have been killed with pure carbon monoxide (CO) injected from steel cylinders. Precisely because there are no documents, the provenance of this vehicle cannot be clarified. However, there are indications that allow us to answer the*

> *question whether there is a link between 'Kaiser's Coffee' van and gas vans."*

Then he sets out the Holocaust thesis on euthanasia (p. 405):

> *"In a letter dated 1 September 1939, Hitler authorized his personal physician Dr. Karl Brandt and Reichsleiter Philipp Bouhler of the 'Führer's Chancellery' to carry out the 'euthanasia.' The Institute for Criminological Technology (Kriminaltechnische Institut, KTI) in the Reich Security Main Office (Reichssicherheitshauptamt, RSHA) was charged with testing suitable killing methods, which concluded that the most appropriate method was killing with CO. After an experimental gassing was conducted in early 1940 in the former prison of Brandenburg/Havel – mentally ill persons were killed using CO in an airtight room – this procedure was also used in all other 'euthanasia' institutions. The Führer's Chancellery received the necessary CO under the aegis of the KTI on the basis of a conversation between Head of the Office* [Viktor] *Brack and* [Albert] *Widmann, head of section V D 2 (chemistry and biology). On the orders of* [Arthur] *Nebe, head of the Amt V (crime fighting unit) of the RSHA, SS Untersturmführer* [August] *Becker collected the steel cylinders at the IG Farben plant in Ludwigshafen and brought them to individual institutions."*

It must be emphasized here that the claim regarding the use of carbon monoxide bottles for homicidal purposes is based *exclusively* on testimonies (note 14-18, p. 405), which moreover were made rather late.[2] But since, as M. Beer rightly points out, justice and historiography pursue different ends, these legal testimonies have no historiographic value due to the total absence of documents. In fact, there is *no documentary evidence*:

1. that the euthanasia centers were equipped with *carbon-monoxide gas chambers,*
2. that *cylinders of carbon monoxide* were used for homicidal purposes by the euthanasia centers,
3. and that the IG-Farben plant in Ludwigshafen supplied *bottled carbon monoxide* to the euthanasia centers.

In addition, there is *no documentary evidence* either that the *KTI*, the Institute for Criminological Technology, had experimented with killing

[2] The sources are statements made by German defendants in 1959 and1960 in connection with investigations by the *Zentrale Stelle der Landesjustizverwaltungen* in Ludwigsburg.

procedures, that it had chosen carbon monoxide as a means of killing and that at the beginning of 1940, in the former prison of Brandenburg upon Havel, an experiment was carried out with a CO gas chamber.

M. Beer then returns to the "Kaiser's Coffee" vans (p. 405f.):

> *"The 'Kaiser's Coffee' vans operated on the same principle as the gas chambers of the 'euthanasia' institutions. In a trailer, CO was released through pipes from a steel cylinder placed in the towing vehicle. Hence it was a gas chamber on wheels. Testimonies state that, from December 1939 on, mentally ill persons in nursing homes in Pomerania, East Prussia and Poland were killed in these vehicles by the Sonderkommando Lange. The name of the Kommando derived from its leader SS Obersturmführer and police adviser Herbert Lange. The letter from Higher SS and Police Leader* [Wilhelm] *Koppe to SS Gruppenführer* [Jakob] *Sporrenberg explains the use of this Kommando at Soldau:*
>
> > *'The so-called Lange Sonderkommando for special tasks subordinated to me was seconded to Soldau, East Prussia, during the period of 21 May to 8 June 1940 in accordance with the agreement made with the RSHA, and in that time has evacuated 1,558 patients from the Soldau transit camp.'*
>
> *Lange brought along one of these vans either from the RSHA (as is implied by the statements of Gustav Sorge and the important role of the Group II D, technical matters, within the RSHA in the progressive development of the gas van), or he himself had it fabricated in collaboration with the RSHA."*

Beer expressed the suspicion that Lange had "the task of field-testing this vehicle" and adds that immediately after this task his Soldau *Sonderkommando* was disbanded, and from this moment "there are no more reports on the use of such vehicles." (p. 406)

The connection between the alleged "Kaiser's Coffee" vans and the alleged CO gas chambers at the euthanasia institutions is in fact totally inconsistent, since there is no documentary evidence that either actually existed. Koppe's letter quoted above neither demonstrates the existence of a "Kaiser's Coffee" van nor its homicidal use. And strictly speaking it doesn't demonstrate either that the Lange *Sonderkommando* had killed 1,558 persons, because it speaks simply of an evacuation from a transit camp.

Before describing the alleged technical development from "Kaiser's Coffee" vans to the "gas van," it is necessary to explain the decision-

making process that would have motivated it. In this connection, M. Beer writes (p. 407):

> *"On 15 and 16 August 1941 Himmler was in Baranovichi and Minsk and witnessed a shooting in the area of Einsatzgruppe B. The Higher SS and Police leader of Central Russia, von dem Bach-Zelewski, who was present, later reported that Himmler was visibly shaken. Then Himmler visited a nursing home for the mentally ill and subsequently ordered the head of Einsatzgruppe B, Nebe, to seek ways to end as soon as possible the suffering of these people, because after experiencing the shooting he had concluded that 'shooting was certainly not the most humane way.' He was to submit a 'report' on this. Himmler turned to Nebe, because the KTI, which answered to Amt V, had already distinguished itself in experimenting with killing methods in the context of 'euthanasia,' so that now its experience could be utilized."*

But no document exists for this anecdote either. Its sole support allegedly comes from former SS *Obergruppenführer* Erich von dem Bach-Zelewski in a statement published on 23 August 1946 in the New York Jewish newspaper *Aufbau* and repeated in 1960 by Karl Wolff, Himmler's adjutant (note 30, p. 407). It concerns an interrogation record drawn up for the Nuremberg trials. Before introducing the story, the German official declared that the extermination of the Jews "had been deliberately planned *before* the war by Heinrich Himmler" and that "Himmler had consequently focused on war in order to fulfill his plans" (Bach-Zelewski, p. 1). These are nonsensical claims to which not even the most-obtuse intentionalist would subscribe. This is followed by a description of the alleged Jewish shooting, without even an indication of the year! (Bach-Zelewski, p. 2)

M. Beer's narrative continues (p. 407):

> *"Nebe was at the same time head of Amt V of the RSHA. In this function he sent Widmann to Minsk with explosives and two metal hoses in early September."*

They allegedly used the explosives to blow up a bunker which the mentally ill were forced to enter, but the result was not satisfactory, so a gassing experiment was carried out in a nursing home in Mogilev by cutting two holes into the wall of a sealed room, to which the exhaust pipes of two vehicles were hooked up using the metal hoses. Beer concludes (pp. 408f.):

> *"The two experiments convinced Nebe that the only feasible idea was killing by exhaust gas, which most probably is to be attributed to him. But for the Einsatzgruppen, for whom the new 'more humane' killing method was sought, a stationary gas chamber, in which people could be killed with exhaust gas, was of no use. In order to fulfill its purpose, it had to be mobile. Based on these considerations and the experience so far gained, the KTI project to build gas vans was born. Nebe and* [SS *Sturmbannführer*, head of the *KTI* Walter] *Heess suggested such a proposal to their superior Heydrich, head of the Security Police and Security Service."*

Here we need to examine the account by Widmann, on which M. Beer relies, in order to examine the reliability of these later anecdotal sources. The premise of the two killing "experiments" mentioned above is that it was not possible to transport cylinders of carbon monoxide (CO) to Russia. Why was it not possible? Widmann does not explain this. He received from Nebe, through his deputy Werner, an order to procure 250 kg of explosives. In an excess of zeal, Widmann bought 400 kg. To say the least, an exorbitant amount for a killing "experiment," certainly more suitable for a mass extermination. The idea of the "experimental" gassing allegedly came to Nebe, who is *rumored* to once have fallen asleep in his car in the garage (with the engine running!) and thus had nearly died! Widmann then also obtained two metal hoses. With these materials he went to Minsk. The first "experiment" was performed in a forest near the city, where there were "two shelters" 3 m × 6 m. In one of the two, explosive charges were placed, and the mentally ill persons brought from a mental hospital in Minsk were made to enter. Then the charges were detonated. Since not all were dead after the first time, they reloaded more explosives and pulled the trigger once more. Result: 250 kg of explosives used to kill 18 people, but unfortunately their body parts had been scattered all over the place, some of them hanging in the surrounding trees! Smart as the Germans were, they subsequently concluded that blowing up people was messy and inefficient.

Widmann then moved to Mogilev. In a mental hospital, among other buildings, a laboratory was chosen to carry out the gassing. The window was walled up, leaving two holes for inserting two metal hoses. Initially only one was inserted into a hole and was connected to the exhaust pipe of a car. Then 5 to 6 mentally ill persons were made to enter the room. At this point, "Nebe entered the building, where the

inside of the laboratory could be seen through a glass window in the door." So a room with a door and with a "glass window" had been chosen as a "gas chamber"!

Because after 8 minutes no effect could be observed, Widmann and Nebe came to the conclusion that the gas flow was insufficient, so the second hose was inserted into the hole and connected to a truck; after "a few minutes," the victims became unconscious. Widmann says nothing about the type of engine of the two motor vehicles. Leaving aside the absurdity of the "5-meter-high flames" which came out of the chimney of the crematorium of the Pirna Euthanasia Institute (which in his opinion was caused by the fact that too many corpses were cremated together),[3] I note only that such massive disorganization, such ridiculous incompetence, such gross carelessness is utterly irreconcilable with the procedures of the Institute for Criminological Technology of the *RSHA*. Hence the testimony is totally unbelievable, the witness utterly untrustworthy.

Let's go back to Beer's story. In October 1941 Heydrich allegedly turned to SS *Obersturmführer* Walter Rauff, head of Group II D 3, technical issues (*Technische Angelegenheiten*), whose Section II D 3a, Automotive Division of the Security Police (*Kraftfahrwesen der Sicherheitspolizei*), was directed by SS *Hauptsturmführer* Friedrich Pradel, who, according to Beer (p. 410),

> *"gave* [Harry] *Wentritt* [head of Section II D 3a, repair workshop] *the task of verifying whether it was possible to inject the exhaust gases into the enclosed body of a van. After Wentritt had confirmed this, Pradel ordered Rauff to get in touch with Heess. They explained to him how such a truck had to be modified in order to work. Then, on Rauff's orders, Pradel and Wentritt visited the Gaubschat Company in Berlin-Neukölln, which specialized in the construction of truck bodies, pretending to need vehicles to carry away the bodies of victims of typhus epidemics."*

As soon as the first van was ready, it was taken to the workshop of the Office II D 3 a, where it was allegedly converted into a "gas van" by connecting a metal hose to the exhaust pipe, which piped the exhaust gases into the van's cargo box. This "gas van" was then brought to the *KTI*, where analyses of the exhaust gas taken from the van's loadspace were carried out. Beer continues (p. 411):

3 Interrogation of Albert Widmann on 11 January 1960. ZSL, Az. 202 AR-Z 152/59, pp. 44-53.

> *"A short time later an experimental gassing took place at the Sachsenhausen concentration camp (where the KTI had a workshop), which also involved SS officers in addition to Heess and the two chemists Leiding and Hoffmann."*

In this way, according to Beer, the prototype of the "gas van" was built and tested. Regarding their use, he states (p. 412):

> *"If we start from the time of the experimental gassing in Sachsenhausen and given the time required for the modification of vehicles, between eight to fourteen days or so, plus the time required to drive the vehicles to their operational area, it seems that the first gas van could have been used only starting in late November early December 1941. The first use of a gas van can be documented in the operational area of Einsatzgruppe C at Sonderkommando 4a at Poltava."*

The conclusion of this labored story takes us to the specific theme of this study (*ibid.*):

> *"The use of gas vans is attested to for 8 December* [1941] *at Chełmno by the previously mentioned Sonderkommando Lange."*

In this scenario, *nothing* is documented: the experimental gassing at Mogilev, the transformation of a van into a "gas van," the experimental gassing in Sachsenhausen, the first use of gas vans; all that is left to mere testimonies.

In conclusion, of the origin of the "gas van" of orthodox Holocaust historiography, *in documentation*, nothing is known.[4]

As noted by Friedrich Paul Berg, in the years between the two world wars and in particular during World War Two, so-called "producer-gas" vehicles were in use in many European countries. In Germany these vehicles were called "*Generatorgaswagen*" (producer-gas vehicles) or simply "gas vans" (*Gaswagen*). Although such gas generators, fired with wood or coal, produce a mixture rich in CO – from 18 to 35% – the CO content emitted by a gasoline engine is usually less than 10%. Oddly enough, the evidence does not suggest that the *KTI* ever thought of using gas generators for homicidal purposes (Berg 2003, pp. 459f.).

According to a document first mentioned by Christian Gerlach in 1997, but which has apparently remained unpublished – the "Report on the Activities and the Situation of *Einsatzgruppe B* for the Period 16 to

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4 In 2011, Beer had a new, slightly shorter paper published on the same topic, which does not contain any new information relevant in this context (Morsch/Perz/Ley 2011, pp. 154-165). I discuss this paper in Mattogno 2016, pp. 55-62.

28 February 1942" of 1 March 1942, this unit had received two "gas vans" (*Gaswagen*; Gerlach 1997, p. 68, and note 83, p. 77). But considering the above-mentioned wartime terminology, I posit that these were *Generatorgaswagen* rather than homicidal "gas vans," a term, moreover, which does not appear in any other wartime document as far as I know and which began to circulate as a designation for homicidal vehicles using exhaust gases only after the war.[5]

The "gas vans" were allegedly created primarily to facilitate the homicidal activities of the *Einsatzgruppen* and were then deployed precisely for this purpose. According to Beer, of the six alleged "gas vans" of the "first series" (Diamond brand or some generic "small" van) converted in 1941, one was assigned to *Einsatzgruppe* C, one to *Einsatzgruppe* D, two to Chełmno (p. 413); also in 1942, thirty other "gas vans" of the second series (Saurer brand) were produced, 20 of which had already been delivered by April 1942 (p. 415), one to Chełmno, the rest apparently to the *Einsatzgruppen*.

It should be noted that the *Einsatzgruppen* have left an enormous quantity of documents on their activities. The "*Ereignismeldungen UdSSR*" (Information on Events in the USSR) amounted to "more than 2,900 typewritten pages" (Krausnik/Wilhelm 1981, p. 333). "There are 195 numbered reports ranging from 23 June 1941 to 24 April 1942 (*ibid.*, pp. 650ff.). The "*Meldungen aus den besetzten Ostgebieten*" (Communications from the Occupied Eastern Territories) are 55 weekly reports numbered from 1 May 1942 to 23 May 1943 (*ibid.*, pp. 652f.). Finally there are 11 "*Tätigkeits-, Lageberichte der Einsatzgruppen der Sicherheitspolizei und des SD in der UdSSR*" (Reports on the Activities and Situation of the *Einsatzgruppen* of the Security Police and Security Service in the USSR) that are dated from 31 July 1941 to 31 March 1942 (*ibid.*, p. 654).

In spite of this huge volume of documents, in these reports "gas vans" never appear (with the one exception mentioned above) and no victim is ever listed as killed with a "gas van." Apparently no one has addressed this enormous contradiction so far.

[5] Although the term "gas lorries" appeared in an article of the British weekly *News Review* on 16 July 1942 (Sharf 1963, p. 187), and "gas lorries" as well as "gas vans" were one main focus of the Krasnodar show trial in 1943 (*The Peoples' Verdict* 1944, pp. 49f., 53, 65, 78, 89f., 110). On the document mentioned by Gerlach see also my elaborations in Mattogno 2016, pp. 112-114.

2. The Alleged Hitler Order, Zyklon B & CO

Orthodox Holocaust historiography attributes to the Chancellery of the Führer not only the design of the "*gas vans*," but also of the alleged eastern extermination camps. In 1976, Ino Arndt and Wolfgang Scheffler noted in this regard (Arndt/Scheffler 1976, p. 114.):

> *"The successful testing of human extermination by carbon monoxide, and 'experience' therein acquired by the staff in relation to the technical apparatus of mass destruction, formed the immediate background to, and a precondition for, the killings of incomparably greater size (for which the aforementioned definition of mass extermination has become customary) that began immediately after the end of 'Action T4' outside the Reich in the territories of occupied Eastern Europe, especially the 'Final Solution of the Jewish question,' which was carried out in the gas chambers of the extermination camps and gas vans used by the Einsatzgruppen of the Security Police and Security Service."*

This thesis has become a kind of dogma of Holocaust historiography.

Heinz Peter Longerich, in his report in support of Deborah Lipstadt in the libel trial of David Irving (January-April 2000), reaffirms in this regard (Longerich 1999, Chapter III.B):

> *"1. Parallel to the beginning of the deportations, the transfer of gas-killing technology into the Eastern European region was begun. This technology had been under development in the context of the 'euthanasia' programme since 1939.*
> *2. This transfer was initiated after the programme of 'euthanasia' had been stopped on 24 August 1941.* […] *Only a few weeks later, the first preparations can be documented for the construction of gas chambers in Eastern Europe.*
> *3. The decision to build the first extermination camp in* Bełżec *was made in mid-October. The killing was to proceed by means of exhaust from a permanently installed motor. Construction started at the beginning of November, and the killing experts of Operation T4 were ordered to* Bełżec *in December 1941."*

Such a transfer would of course also have involved Chełmno (*ibid.*):

> *"9. Around the same time, from October/November 1941 onward, the gas vans were also deployed by the SK Lange in the Warthegau*

> *to murder of Jews. On 8 December, the killing began in Chełmno, where a permanent location of gas vans was established – that is, a further variant of an extermination camp.”*

But this primary function of the killing system using engine-exhaust gas contrasts sharply with that allegedly adopted at Auschwitz. Longerich mentions this contradiction almost as a matter of compliance with record, without however attempting to explain it (*ibid.*):

> *“10. While the mass murders were being prepared or already executed in Bełżec, the Warthegau, and in the occupied eastern territories with the help of exhaust fumes, the Commandant of the Auschwitz concentration camp took another course. In September or December 1941, 600 Soviet prisoners of war, as well as a selected 250 sick prisoners, were murdered in the basement of Block 11 of Auschwitz by means of a high concentration of the extremely poisonous disinfectant Cyclon B. At a later point, in December 1941, a further 900 Soviet POWs were murdered by means of gas.*
>
> *11. In his writings from the Krakow prison after the war, the former Commandant of Auschwitz Höß described how he had discussed the question of the most suitable poison gas to be employed, on the occasion of a visit by Eichmann. The date of this visit is still not certain – some of his comments indicate the autumn of 1941, others point to a later date somewhere in early 1942. Höß further states that during the time that he was not in Auschwitz himself, his deputy used Cyclon B to kill Soviet POWs on his own initiative.”*

The question is actually even more complex than it appears at first sight, because here comes into play not only the agent of killing – Zyklon B as against CO – but also the hierarchical path of the alleged extermination order. On this point, in fact, orthodox Holocaust historiography has an irresolvable dichotomy: on one hand the following path:

> Hitler → Führer’s Chancellery → *KTI* (Technical Criminal Institute) → euthanasia → “gas vans” → the alleged extermination camps in Chełmno and the east

and on the other the path:

> Hitler → Himmler → Eichmann → Höss → Auschwitz → Majdanek.[6]

---

[6] According to orthodox historiography, the camp Lublin-Majdanek was equipped with a homicidal Zyklon B gas chamber since October 1942. Marszałek 1986, p. 140. See in this regard Graf/Mattogno 2003.

In his manuscript "*Die Endlösung der Judenfrage*" ("The Final Solution of the Jewish Question"), completed in November 1946 in Krakow, Höss explained the origin of the alleged extermination of the Jews at Auschwitz as follows (Broszat 1981, pp. 157-160):

> "[Höss] *In the summer of 1941 – at the moment I cannot say the exact date – I was suddenly summoned to Berlin to the Reichsführer* [Himmler], *through his adjutant office.*[7]
> [Himmler] *'The Führer has ordered the final solution of the Jewish question, and we – the SS – must carry out that order.* […] *You will learn further details from Sturmbannführer Eichmann, of the RSHA, who will contact you in the near future.* […] *You are to maintain absolute silence regarding this order, even with your superiors.'*
> *Shortly thereafter Eichmann came to me to Auschwitz.*[8] *He apprised me about the plans for the operations in the individual countries.* […] *Furthermore we talked about implementing the extermination. Only gas would be an option* […]. *Eichmann wanted to inquire and then inform me about a gas which could be procured easily and which did not require any special devices. We drove into the area in order to determine the suitable location. We considered the farmhouses* [the future Bunker 1] *to be suitable which were located at the northwestern corner of the later Construction Sector III* [at] *Birkenau.* […]
> *Eichmann drove back to Berlin in order to report to the RFSS* [Himmler] *about our conversation.* […]
> *At the end of November, a conference of the entire section on Jews took place at the Eichmann office, to which I was called as well.* […] *I could not yet find out about the beginning of the operations. Also, Eichmann hadn't managed to locate a suitable gas yet.*
> *In the fall of 1941, by means of a secret special order, the Gestapo separated all* [Soviet] *political commissars and special political functionaries in the PoW camps and sent them to the closest concentration camp for liquidation. Smaller transports of that kind arrived continuously at Auschwitz, which were killed by shooting in the*

7 The claim is not confirmed by any document.

8 Eichmann's visit to Auschwitz is not confirmed by any document. At Nuremberg Höss declared that this visit was "about 4 weeks after having received that order from the *Reichsführer*" (IMT, vol. 11, p. 399), *i.e.* in July 1941, given that the meeting with Himmler had taken place in June. Höss's affidavit of 5 April 1946 (PS-3868), p. 2.

> *gravel pit close to the Cartel Building*[9] *or in the courtyard of Block 11. On the occasion of a business trip, my deputy, Hauptsturmführer Fritzsch, had used gas on his own initiative for the killing of these Russian PoWs; he did this in such a way that he cram-packed the individual cells located in the basement with Russians and threw in Cyklon B* [Zyklon B] *while using gas masks, which caused immediate death.* […]
> *During Eichmann's next visit I told him about the use of Cyklon B, and we decided to use this gas for the future mass extermination.* […]
> *I cannot say anymore at what time the extermination of the Jews began. Probably still in September 1941, but maybe only in January 1942."*

So here is involved a direct line Hitler → Himmler → Eichmann → Höss, which, precisely because it implies a presumed general order by Hitler for the extermination of the Jews, of which Höss was to be the main executor, precludes the parallel line via the Chancellery of the Führer, unless you assume a kind of schizophrenia in the top Nazis in charge of the implementation of the alleged extermination of the Jews.

Raul Hilberg inadvertently exacerbates this contradiction by describing the genesis of the alleged homicidal gas chambers as follows (Hilberg 1995, p. 951):

> *"During the summer of 1941, when Himmler began to consider the physical destruction of the Jews throughout Europe, he consulted the chief SS doctor (SS und Polizei Reichsarzt), the Gruppenführer Dr.* [Ernst Robert] *Grawitz, to find out what the best way would be to carry out this mass extermination. Grawitz advised the gas chamber."*

He refers to the affidavit of Konrad Morgen of 13 July 1946, which says (IMT, vol. 42, p. 559; Document SS 65):

> *"In order to implement the mass extermination as ordered by Hitler, Himmler asked him* [Dr. Grawitz] *at that time to suggest a killing method which would be both painless and would spare the victims any fear of death. Hence one had chosen a method which left the victims in complete ignorance of their fate up to the moment of the unexpected application of a fast-acting, highly volatile gas."*

9 A former building of the Polish Tobacco Cartel, later incorporated into the camp.

The initiative in finding the most-appropriate system of extermination was therefore assumed by Himmler through Grawitz, not by the Chancellery of the Führer through the Institute for Criminological Technology. But even with this in mind, it is absolutely incredible that, while the Institute for Criminological Technology would carry out the alleged dilettante experiments referred to above, Himmler, instead of awaiting the results of the above killing experiments, is said to have delegated the search for a "fast-acting, highly volatile gas" to Eichmann. Eichmann's performance, however, was so dismal that at the end of November 1941, four months after he was sent to Auschwitz, he had still not found the most-appropriate gas. Instead, this is said to have been found *without great effort* at Auschwitz by a mere SS captain and then used on large scale.

In reality, it would have been very simple to find an appropriate gas. During the First World War both sides used aggressive chemicals of all kinds.[10] At that time, the aggressiveness of the various substances was indicated by the product of mortality or toxicity index that is derived from the Haber Equation and given in "milligrams of toxic substance per m^3 to be inhaled in one minute to obtain the death of the individual." The most-toxic substances found are given in Table 1. As is clear from this table (Izzo, pp. 45f.):

> *"The most dangerous war gas, according to the Haber index, is phosgene, followed soon after by diphosgene."*

It is noteworthy that CO, with its high index of 70,000, was considered the least-effective gas: 150 times less effective than phosgene, from 17.5 to 70 times less effective than hydrocyanic acid: Who would have ever chosen it for mass extermination?

At that time, Germany was at the forefront of chemistry, and these data were in any reference book, such as *Schädliche Gase, Dämpfe,*

[10] Here is the list for the curious reader: chlorine, bromine, phosgene (carbon oxychloride), thiophosgene (carbon sulphochloride), hydrogen cyanide, cyanogen chloride, cyanogen bromide, methyl chloroformate, monochloride chloroformate, dichloride chloroformate, trichloride chloroformate (diphosgene), ethyl iodoacetate, bromoacetone, iodoacetone, bromomethyl ethyl ketone, dimethyl sulphate, methyl chlorosulphate, ethyl chlorosulphate, chloropicrin (trichloronitromethane) dichloro methyl arsine, dichloro ethyl arsine, vinyl chloride dichloro arsine, ethyl sulfide dichloride, acrolein (allyl aldehyde), benzyl chloride, benzyl bromide, bromo benzyl cyanide, phenylimino phosgene (carbil phenyl amine chloride), chloroacetophenone, chlorinated diphenyl arsine, cyan diphenyl arsine, amino diphenyl chloro arsine, N-ethyl carbazole. See Izzo, "Principali aggressivi chimici," table outside of text.

Table 1: Toxicity of poison gases used in WWI

SUBSTANCE	TOXICITY INDEX[†]	
phosgene	450	Most toxic
diphosgene	500	
mustard	1,500	
ethyl iodo-acetate	1,500	
chloropicrin	2,000	
chloro ethyl sulfate	2,000	
hydrogen cyanide*	1,000-4,000	
ethyl bromo-acetate	3,000	
perchloro methyl mercaptan	3,000	
chloro acetone	3,000	
bromo acetone	4,000	
xylene bromide	6,000	
chlorine	7,500	
carbon monoxide	70,000	Least toxic

[†] using the Haber toxicity equation; *depending on the concentration

Nebel, Rauch- und Staubarten, Ferdinand Flury and Franz Zernik, one of the best, which had appeared as early as 1931.[11]

The story of the origin of the alleged homicidal gas chambers is therefore not only documentarily unfounded, but also internally inconsistent.

[11] Similar data can be found in an Italian book by Michele Giua (1933). Another important work on this topic, likewise published in 1933, was Mario Dartori's *Chimica delle sostanze aggressive* (German 1935).

3. The Construction Order for the Chełmno Camp

On the design of the alleged extermination camp at Chełmno, Krakowski stated the following (1983, p. 110):

> *"A letter, written on 16 July 1941 by SS Sturmbannführer Rolf-Heinz Höppner, on the staff of the Höherer SS und Polizeiführer in the Warthegau, to SS Obersturmbannführer Adolf Eichmann, mentions for the first time that 'the Jews* [must] *be eliminated with some quick-acting poison.'"*

In his book published in 2007, Krakowski sees in this letter a wider and more-systematic murderous intention (p. 21):

> *"By this memorandum, as well as by events that happened on the ground, we can assume that already at this early stage there were debates on the extermination of the Jews of the Warthegau, although the manner and pace of implementation of this massacre had not yet been decided upon."*

The text of the letter, as we shall see later, belies this interpretation, which extrapolates and emphasizes a proposal that is at odds with a general policy of extermination.[12] This document fits seamlessly into the National Socialist policy of Jewish deportation to the east, which renders extremely problematic the orthodox claim of a planned extermination of the Jews and the establishement of the alleged extermination camps, beginning with Chełmno, which is said to have been the first to become operational.

In another study I have documented this policy, which resulted in the deportation of more than 56,000 Jews from the *Altreich* (Old Reich), the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia and the *Ostmark* (Austria) to the eastern territories (Riga, Kaunas, Raasiku, Minsk, Baranov, Maly Trostinec) and more than 69,000 Jews from those three countries and Slovakia to the Lublin District (Mattogno/Graf 2004, Chapter VI and VIII). Auschwitz had an important role in this policy of deportation because – as was established on 15 September 1942, at a meeting between the Minister Albert Speer, SS *Obergruppenführer* Oswald Pohl

[12] The quotation is furthermore inaccurate, as the original text does not say "by some quick-acting poison (*durch irgendein schnell wirksames Gift*)," but "by some quick-acting substance" (*durch irgendein schnellwirkendes <u>Mittel</u>*). See below.

and other officials of the Reich – this area was the center for the assembly of forced-labor units that were selected during the deportation of Jews to the eastern territories, referred to in the "*Ostwanderung*" document:[13]

> *"The Jews fit for work destined for migration to the east will therefore interrupt their journey* [at Auschwitz] *and shall have to perform armaments work."*

Götz Aly has documented that from January 1941 onward the SS planned to transfer to the ghetto of Łódź in the General Government[14] the majority of Jews unfit for work, who would be replaced by Jews fit for work (Aly, pp. 264f.). He then sums up the plans of the SS (*ibid.*, p. 267):

> *"In the spring of 1941 officials in the RSHA dealing with Jewish affairs and in the General Government considered employing Jews fit for work in 'work columns'; due to new forced labor projects they would have to create 'space' in the ghettos of the General Government, into which Heydrich, Eichmann and Höppner wanted to deport Jews unfit for work from the regions of Łódź, Dombrowa and Zichenau."*

Aly notes that the Jews were divided into two groups – those fit and those unfit for work – who were to be treated differently (*ibid.*, pp. 267f.). These measures, however, were regarded as temporary only in view of an impending "total solution (*Gesamtlösung*) of the European Jewish question," which in the spring of 1941 took account of the future "potential of the east" (*ibid.*, p. 268).

In this respect, Aly makes it clear that in early 1941 the plans of the SS, to which he assigns undocumented intentions of extermination, were to concentrate Jews unfit for work in reservations or ghettos for the elderly on the eastern outskirts of the General Government and to transfer them later, after victory, to Soviet territories bordering the marshes of eastern Poland and present-day Belarus, while Jews fit for work reclaimed those marshes starting in the summer of 1941 (*ibid.*, p. 273).

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13 Pohl Report to Himmler of September 16, 1942 on the subject of armament work and bomb damage, BAK, NS 19.14, pp. 131-133. See Mattogno 2004c, pp. 52-54.

14 The General Government (German: *Generalgouvernement*, Polish: *Generalne Gubernatorstwo*) was the German term for the part of Poland not incorporated into the Reich or annexed by the Soviet Union during World War II. It was governed by a German occupational administration.

Aly later documents that "the plan to deport the Jews to the Pripyat marshes, which used to be located in eastern Poland but later were part of White Russia," was taken very seriously by the SS, and in this context he mentions, among other things, two studies that appeared in December 1941 and June 1942 in the *Zeitschrift für Geopolitik* (*Journal for Geopolitics*) entitled "*Die Pripjetsümpfe als Entwässerungsproblem*" authored by Richard Bergius, and "*Pripjet-Polesien, Land und Leute*," by Hansjulius Schepers (*ibid.*, pp. 275f.). On 19 July 1941, the Governor General of Poland Hans Frank, in a paper to Hans Lammers, head of the Reich Chancellery, suggested the annexation of the "swamp lands of Pripyat" into the General Government (*i.e.* wartime Poland) in order to move there "elements of the population (especially Jews)" in order to use them for productive activities useful to the Reich (*ibid.*, p. 317).

Into this context fits the activity report allegedly written by SS *Sturmbannführer* Rolf-Heinz Höppner[15] on 16 July 1941, of which I provide a translation:[16]

> *"The L HÖ/S Posen, 16 July 1941*
>
> *File Memo*
>
> Subject: *solution of the Jewish question.*
>
> *In meetings* [held] *at the provincial government of the Reich, the solution of the Jewish question in the territory of the Warthegau has been addressed from various aspects. The following solution is proposed:*
>
> *1. All the Warthegau Jews will be assembled in a camp for 300,000 Jews which will be built in the form of barracks as close as possible to the railway line carrying coal and which contains equipment for industrial workers, tailors, cobblers and so on.*
>
> *2. Into this camp will be brought all the Jews of the Warthegau. Jews fit for work, on request, can be organized into working groups and allowed outside the camp.*
>
> *3. Such a camp, in the opinion of SS Brigadeführer Albert,*[17] *can be guarded by much smaller police forces than is now the case. Moreo-*

15 Adalbert Rückerl wrote in this regard (1979, p. 257, note 38): "In both the criminal proceedings before the District Court of Posen and subsequently in a preliminary investigation against him by prosecutors in Bonn Rolf H.[öppner] denied that the letter to the *Reichssicherheitshauptamt* and the note attached to the documents had reached him."

16 T/219. Reproduction of the document in Leszczyński 1977, pp. 60f.

17 Wilhelm Albert was head of the police (*Polizeipräsident*) in Łódź.

ver, the danger of epidemics, which in Litzmannstadt [=Łódź] *and other ghettos is always present for the surrounding population, is limited to a minimum.*
4. This winter there is a danger that not all Jews can be fed any longer. We must seriously consider whether the most-humane solution is not to eliminate the Jews by some substance with rapid effect insofar as they are unfit to work.
5. For the rest a proposal was made to sterilize all the Jewesses in this camp who can still be expected to bear children so that with this generation the Jewish problem will indeed be solved completely.
6. On this matter the Reichsstatthalter [Arthur Greiser] *has not yet ruled. One gets the impression that Regierungspräsident*[18] *Übelhör does not want the Litzmannstadt ghetto to disappear, as he has a lot to gain from it. As an example of how much profit can be made from the Jews, I was told that the Reich Ministry of Labor pays 6 RM from a special fund for every Jew employed in work, but the Jew only costs 80 Pfennigs.*
SS Sturmbannführer."

The proposal attributed to Höppner is therefore not consistent with a plan of systematic extermination. That conclusion was also reached by Aly on the basis of an activity report from Höppner for Eichmann on 2 September 1941 (1995, p. 339):

"So Höppner from early September stated for a fact that 'the final solution of the Jewish question' was a first essential part of the general program of evacuation of all Jews who were 'under German influence.' He did not yet consider that systematic murder had been decided upon"

This is incontrovertibly confirmed by the rest of the letter from Himmler to Arthur Greiser, governor of Warthegau, of 18 September 1941:[19]

"The Führer wishes that the Old Reich and the Protectorate be emptied and cleared of Jews from west to east as soon as possible. For this reason I have worked hard to transport, possibly even this year, the Jews of the Old Reich and the Protectorate, primarily as a first step, into the new eastern territories obtained two years ago by the Reich, and to expel them farther east next year.

[18] President of the administrative district.
[19] Letter from Himmler to Greiser of 18 September 1941. BAK, NS 19/2655, p. 3; reproduction in Witte 1995, p. 50.

> *I plan on deporting about 60,000 Jews from the Old Reich and the Protectorate to the Litzmannstadt ghetto, which, as I have heard, has the space to accommodate them. I beg you not only to understand this decision, which will certainly create difficulties for your Gau, but to support it with all your strength in the overall interest of the Reich.*
>
> *SS Gruppenführer Heydrich, who has to carry out this Jewish emigration, will approach you in due course directly or through SS Gruppenführer Koppe."*

While this document reflects perfectly the guidelines of the National Socialist policy of Jewish emigration, Holocaust historian Peter Witte found a way to twist the sentence, claiming that its "further transfer to the east" contains

> *"already, in its essentials, the death sentence of the Jews to be deported, regardless of the fact that at that time there were not yet any death camps ready to receive Jews and that their construction had not yet been ordered, although the ground for the extermination had already been prepared, […]"* (Witte 1995, p. 53)

where the last sentence refers to Höppner's alleged letter of 16 July 1941!

Unexpectedly – and mysteriously – a few weeks after the above-mentioned letter, in October 1941, Himmler allegedly ordered the construction of the "killing fields" of Chełmno and Bełżec. However, the documents continued to speak of evacuation to the east. I have cited many of them in a previous work (Mattogno/Graf 2004, pp. 181-193). Aly also mentions others (1995, p. 274):

> *"On 23 September 1941, Heydrich assured Goebbels, who approached him in his capacity as Gauleiter of Berlin, that, once the military situation would allow it, the Jews would have to be sent to the Communist camps on the Arctic Ocean. Immediately after the Wannsee conference, Heydrich returns to the 'Arctic Ocean' option: there they wanted to 'get hold of the Russian concentration camps'; the territory – which, despite what one might suppose to the contrary, had a sound, concentrated agriculture and an excellent base of raw materials – was an 'ideal future home for the 11 million Jews of Europe.'*[20] *In 1946, Frank's secretary of state, Josef Bühler, during his interrogation at Nuremberg, declared that Heydrich had told him*

[20] This refers to a secret speech by Heydrich in Prague on 4 February 1942.

> *at the beginning of 1942 that Himmler had the order from the Führer to gather all the Jews of Europe and evacuate them to the northeast of Europe, to Russia."*

The Jewish deportations to Minsk and Riga began on 8 and 15 November 1941, respectively (Mattogno/Graf 2004, pp. 200f.), but these were temporary locations only, because, as Heinrich Lohse, the *Reichskommissar des Ostlandes* (Imperial Commissioner for the Eastern Lands[21]), wrote on 9 October 1941, to Alfred Rosenberg, *Reichsminister für die besetzten Ostgebiete* (Imperial Minister for the Occupied Eastern Territories), that "since Jewish camps must be shifted considerably farther to the east" (*ibid.*, p. 197) which is also consistent with the Arctic Ocean option.

The use of former Soviet prisoner-of-war camps to imprison Jews followed a general directive issued in Galicia as early as August 1941:[22]

> *"In almost all towns of some size in the district of Galicia there are said to be prisoner-of-war camps set up by the Russians. These are said to be equipped with the necessary facilities and are said to be especially well-suited to serve as camps for Jewish forced laborers. All existing camps are to be surveyed and immediately reported. At the same time their capacity and their condition is to be determined."*

But then suddenly, just when the policy of deportation to the east began to be realized, for mysterious reasons the SS began to build not transit camps, but "extermination camps." But what about the subsequent documents that continue to speak of deportation to the east? All that is left to orthodox Holocaust historiography is the subterfuge of "coded language," according to which one merely has to swap terms like "emigration" and "deportation" with "annihilation" so that the sources suddenly document the creation of the alleged extermination machine since October 1941. Here, for example, is how Aly addresses these difficulties of interpretation (p. 358):

> *"The minutes of the meeting in Prague on 10 October 1941 document how little difference there was in these days and in these weeks between the ideas of murderous deportation and immediate extermi-*

[21] The territories of the Baltic countries, Belarus, Russia and the Ukraine temporarily occupied by the Germans.

[22] Letter of *Oberst der Schutzpolizei und Regimentskommandeur* Worm to Police Battallions 315, 133 and 254 as well as to the *Kommandos der Schutzpolizei* in Lemberg, Tarnopol, Stanislau of 14 August 1941. RGVA, 1323-2-292b, p. 158.

> *nation, with as little fuss as possible, of the European Jews, as the term 'evacuation' became synonymous with killing."*

But the document of 10 October 1941 speaks explicitly of deportations to the east and reception of the deportees in the appropriate camps:[23]

> *"Because of the evacuation, difficulties arose. It was planned to begin with it roughly on 15 October 1941, in order to let the transports take off one by one until 15 November, up to the number of some 5,000 Jews – from Prague alone. For now, one still has to be considerate of the Litzmannstadt* [Łódź] *authorities. Minsk and Riga are to obtain 50,000.* […] *During the following weeks the 5,000 Jews are now to be evacuated from Prague. SS Brif.* [Brigadeführer] *Nebe and Rasch can include the Jews in the camps for communist inmates in the area of operation. According to SS Stubaf. Eichmann this has already been initiated."*

Theresienstadt was considered to be a "provisional assembly camp (*vorübergehenden Sammellager*), albeit with a high mortality, from which evacuation was then to continue "to the eastern territories" (*in die östlichen Gebiete*; *ibid.*). Nothing in this document suggests any intention on the part of the SS to exterminate the Jews.

About the genesis of the Chełmno camp, Krakowski states (2007, p. 27):

> *"It is neither known when exactly the decision was made to establish the Chełmno camp, nor at which moment and under which circumstances the respective orders were issued."*

He repeatedly asserts that it was inaugurated on 8 December 1941 (*ibid.*, pp. 31-32, 35), but does not provide any documentary evidence, not even a single testimony.[24] Despite this, he even claims that "on that 8 December 1941 the gas vans made their awful journey three times" (*ibid.*, pp. 34f.), but this statement too is devoid of any documentary evidence. This applies also to the connection which Krakowski sees between the camp's alleged date of opening and the original date of the Wannsee Conference. He notes that the latter was initially convened for 9 December 1941, but was later postponed to 20 January 1942, because

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[23] *Notizen aus der Besprechung am 10.10.41 über die Lösung der Judenfrage*. T 37/299. Transcription in Kryl 1983, pp. 38-41.

[24] According to the testimony of Andrzej Miszczak, the first transport of inmates (700 Jews from Koło) arrived at the camp on 9 December 1941: Blumental 1946, p. 241. This is a simple claim without any documentary confirmation.

of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and the subsequent entry of the U.S. into the war, and he concludes (*ibid.*, pp. 31f.):

> *"While the conference date was postponed, the opening date of the Chełmno extermination camp was not changed, and the massacre commenced – as planned – on 8 December 1941."*

But that unfounded conjecture does not turn this purely fictitious date into reality.

Furthermore, the guidelines set out by Heydrich at the Wannsee Conference are in sharp contrast to the alleged establishment of a death camp at Chełmno in early December 1941. Krakowski is forced to completely distort them. He writes (*ibid.*, p. 77):

> "[…] *already during this conference it was agreed to leave a small percentage of Jews alive in order to use their strength for forced labor. Working conditions would then gradually bring about the killing of all the forced laborers, according to the Nazi program called 'extermination through work.'*"

The truth is, however, that at the Wannsee Conference Heydrich announced the change in the National Socialist policy toward the Jews which had evolved a few months earlier:[25]

> *"In the meantime, the Reichsfuehrer SS and Chief of the German Police* [Himmler] *had prohibited emigration of Jews due to the dangers of an emigration in wartime and due to the possibilities of the east. Another possible solution of the problem has now taken the place of emigration, i.e. the evacuation of the Jews to the east, provided that the Fuehrer gives the appropriate approval in advance."*

That here was a genuine plan to deport the Jews to the east is admitted even by Hilberg, who comments (1995, p. 428):

> *"Heydrich explained what would be done with the evacuees: they were organized in huge labor columns; by using their labor, many of them would no doubt 'perish due to their physical weakness'* (wobei zweifellos ein Grossteil durch natürliche Verminderung ausfallen wird)*:*[26] *The remainder* (Restbestand) *of this process of 'natural selection' – that is, the more resistant core of the Jews – would have to be 'treated accordingly'* (wird entsprechend behandelt werden müssen)*, since history had shown how these Jews carry within them*

25 NG-2586-G, p. 5 of the original.

26 The expression "*durch natürliche Verminderung*" does not mean "due to their physical weakness," but instead "by natural attrition," that is: by natural mortality.

> *the seeds of a new Jewish revival. Heydrich does not dwell on this 'according' treatment, but based on the language of the Einsatzgruppen reports we know that he alluded to their death sentence."*

But Hilberg himself distorts the final destiny of the remaining Jews, omitting the words "in case of liberation" (*bei Freilassung*), which categorically excludes both the "death sentence" he posits and the gradual "extermination through work" alleged by Krakowski, making clear that "*entsprechend behandelt*" probably simply meant that these Jews were not to be released.[27]

But if, as late as 20 January 1942, the National Socialist policy toward the Jews still provided for a *genuine* evacuation of the Jews to the east, then how can this be reconciled with the establishment of a camp at Chełmno? In this context Chełmno could only have been a transit camp for the evacuation of Jews from the Warthegau to the east.

Greiser's letter to Himmler of 1 May 1942, from which Krakowski infers that the Nazis intended "giving up – at least for a certain period of time – the total extermination of the entire Jewish population of the Warthegau in order to admit a certain percentage of them for the implementation of forced labor" (2007, p. 78) should be interpreted precisely in this sense.

The passage of the document relied upon by Krakowski says:[28]

> *"Reichsführer!*
>
> *The operation of special treatment of some 100,000 Jews in my governmental area, as approved by you in agreement with the Head of the Imperial Security Main Office, SS Obergruppenführer Heydrich, will be finished within the next 2-3 months."*

This "special treatment" was merely an extension to the Jews in Warthegau of the order that Himmler had sent to Greiser on 18 September 1941 concerning the expulsion of the Jews of the Reich proper and the Protectorate via the ghetto of Łódź during "next year," that is 1942.

But if the alleged establishment of the Chełmno "extermination camp" remains inexplicable and contrary to the sources, the report of the first alleged systematic extermination in this camp, as discussed in Chapter 5, is likewise contradictory and inexplicable.

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27 As in the Madagascar project, the deported Jews were under the supervision of the SS in the eastern settlements as well.

28 NO-246.

4. “Gas Vans” in Chełmno?

According to orthodox Holocaust historiography, the alleged extermination of the Jews at Chełmno was carried out solely by means of “gas vans.”

The only document that links vehicles called “*Spezialwagen*” to Chełmno is a file memo (*Vermerk*) of 5 June 1942 apparently from the *Referat II D 3a* of the *RSHA* 8.[29] This is said to be an official document drawn up in a very peculiar “‘unique-est’ copy” (“*einzigste Ausfertigung*”), although in German, the superlative of the adjective *einzig* does not exist (just as in English with its translation “unique”). It concerns “technical changes to the special vehicles [already] in service and which are [still] in production” and opens with an incomprehensible “for example”:

> *“For example 97,000 were processed since December 1941 with 3 deployed vehicles without any defects in the vehicles becoming apparent.”*

The reference that we are interested in is in the following sentence:

> *“The known explosion at Kulmhof* [=Chełmno] *has to be assessed as a single case.”*

But the document in question contains so many anomalies and absurdities that Ingrid Weckert, Pierre Marais and Santiago Alvarez, who have researched it carefully, came to the conclusion that this is a back-dated fake along the lines of the memo from the Chief of Police and Security Service of 23 June 1942, addressed to the Fahrzeugewerke Gaubschat company in Berlin, to give the latter a criminal significance which it does not have.[30]

To assess the validity of this interpretation just one observation is sufficient. The memo of 23 June 1942, in Paragraph 1 says:[31]

> *“The cargo box is to be shortened by 800 mm in length. The protrusion at the door is omitted. The objection is herewith acknowledged that the shortening would result in a disadvantageous weight distri-*

[29] Reproduced in: Alvarez 2011, pp. 318-322; Kogon *et al.* 1983, pp. 333-337; Rückerl 1971, document appendix outside of pagination.

[30] Weckert 2003, pp. 231-235; see in particular also Alvarez 2011, Subsection 2.2.4; Marais 1994, pp. 44-78; Walendy 1979, pp. 29-31; Weckert 1985, pp. 23-28.

[31] Facsimile of the document in: Alvarez 2011, pp. 323-325.

bution. The Gaubschat company will not be held liable for any disadvantages resulting from this."

And here is how it is interpreted in the memo of 5 June 1942:

> *"The vans' load usually amounts to 9 to 10 per m^2* [10 sq ft]. *Although no overloading occurs thereby for the spacious Saurer special vehicles, utilization in that form is not possible, because their off-road capability is highly reduced by this. A reduction of the load area appears to be necessary. This will be achieved by shortening the body by approximately 1 m* [39"]. *The above difficulty is not to be solved, as has been done so far, by reducing the number of units* [of payload]. *This is because a reduction in the number of units necessitates a longer operation time, since the empty spaces* [left by omission of the payload units] *also have to be filled with carbon monoxide. In contrast to this, a substantially shorter operation time suffices in case of a shorter load area and a completely filled loading space, since empty spaces are missing.*[32]*"*

According to the note of the *RSHA* on 27 April 1942, the cargo boxes of these special vehicles were 5.8 m long and 1.7 m high, and their load capacity was 4,500 kg.[33] Since the normal load was allegedly nine to ten – we assume people – per square meter, if the truck's floor was 2.5 meters wide (see further below), this would result in an area of 14.5 m^2 and a volume of 24.65 m^3. In this case, it would have held no more than (4,500 kg ÷ 14.5 m^2 =) 310 kg/m^2. Hence the permissible average weight of each person would have amounted to (310 kg/m^2 ÷ [9 to 10 m^{-2}] =) 34.4 to 31.0 kg, an unrealistic value for groups in which adults had to be relatively numerous. For the alleged gas chambers at Birkenau, Robert Jan van Pelt took a more-reasonable average weight of 60 kg per victim (van Pelt 2002, pp. 470, 472).

In other words: Loading nine to ten average people of 60 kg into such a truck would have amounted to (14.5 m^2 × [9 to 10 m^{-2}] =) 7.8 to 8.7 metric tons, which is almost twice the permissible load of 4.5 metric tons. Hence the above-quoted memo's claim is utterly wrong that "no overloading occurs."

The memo's claim that merely reducing the number of payload units led to "a longer operation time, since the empty spaces also have to be filled with carbon monoxide" is just as ridiculous. Even though shortening the load area by 1 m (or 17%) while maintaining the load density

32 German: "*weil freie Räume fehlen*." This is awkward German as well.
33 Facsimile of the document in Alvarez 2011, pp. 299-305.

would reduce the air volume accordingly, reducing the load density instead has hardly any effect on the air volume. To show this, I assume first of all that the vehicle's maximum load of 4,500 kg (≈ 4.5 m^3 of bodies) was not exceeded. That would amount to (4,500 kg ÷ 60 kg) 75 persons, or 5.2 persons (or 310 kg) per square meter. We now reduce the payload by as many persons as would result from shortening the box by one meter. This amounts to (1 m × 2.5 m × 310 kg/m^2 =) 775 kg or roughly 13 people, or an additional air volume of 0.775 m^3. Hence decreasing the load by 775 kg would increase the empty volume merely from (24.65 m^3 – 4.5 m^3 =) 20.15 m^3 to (20.15 m^3 + 0.775 m^3 =) 20.925 m^3, or just 3.7%. Even if we assume a higher load density as suggested by the memo, this would still not be more than a 7.2% increase in air volume. And if, as stated in the verdict of the Bonn Jury Court of 30 March 1963, the death of the victims occurred within about nine to ten minutes after starting the engine,[34] this marginal increase of free space would have resulted in an equally marginal change of the execution time, which would have been in the order of 20 to 40 seconds. This shows that the analysis presented in this memo of 5 June 1942 is ludicrous.

This memo also claims that, according to the company that was to carry out the work, the shortening of the body would have had a negative effect on weight distribution, resulting in an overload of the front axle of the vehicle:

> *"In a discussion with the manufacturer it was pointed out by the latter that a shortening of the cargo box would result in a disadvantageous weight displacement. It was emphasized that an overloading of the front axle occurs. In fact, however, an unintended balancing in weight distribution occurs, because during operation the load striving toward the back door always predominantly lies there. Due to this an additional load on the front axle does not occur."*

In other words, the victims would move toward the door of the "gas vans" and their weight on the rear axle of the vehicle would offset the overload on the front axle due to shortening of the vehicle body and rebalance the vehicle. This "solution" ignores the fact that the load of

34 Rüter *et al.* 1979, pp. 232, 279; during this trial eleven defendants who had been officials of the Chełmno/Kulmhof camp were accused of various acts of homicide. It started on 26 November 1962 and lasted until 30 March 1963. After a partially successful appeal the case was retried and ended with a final verdict on 23 July 1965. Three of the defendants received 13 years, one 7 and one 8 years, and three others 13½ months of imprisonment. Cf. Alvarez 2011, Paragraph 3.7.4.1.

the "gas vans" is said to have been nine to ten victims per square meter and that just to maintain this density they wanted to shorten the box. But with such a packing density, the victims could not have moved at all.

Besides, the "special vehicles" described in the memo of 27 April 1942 could not have been homicidal "gas vans," as has been stressed by the revisionist authors mentioned above. This becomes clear from the fact that in relation to the design of a removable grate to be installed in the cargo box this document states:

> *"In order that the load does not fall over the last grate* [section] *toward the rear wall of the driver's cab, it is to be equipped with an angled gridwork of 3 – 400 mm height."*

But if the load consisted of people, standing nine to ten per square meter in the cargo box, how could a trellis just 30-40 cm [1' to 1'4"] high prevent the dying victims or their corpses, after the gassing, from falling or resting against the cab? Such a device could possibly be compatible with the transport of corpses, loaded and arranged neatly in the cargo box, but not with the transport of living people who became corpses inside the cargo box.

Apart from the reference mentioned above, the only documentary evidence of the use of a gassing van at Chełmno for homicidal purposes would be two photographs taken in 1945. The first photo, the best-known, is on display at the Chełmno Museum.[35] The second depicts the same alleged "gas van," which was in 1945 at the former Ostrowski Company in Koło,[36] a town located about 10 km northeast of Chełmno.

The photograph on display at the Chełmno Museum was published in 1982 by Gerald Fleming with this caption:[37]

> *"Mobile gas chamber in which Jewish men were murdered in the Chełmno (Kulmhof) extermination camp and at Konitz (Archives of the Polish Ministry of Justice)."*

This "gas van" was, however, not recognized as such by witness Bronisław Falborski, who was interrogated at Koło on 11 June 1945 by the

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[35] See Documents 1, 1a. The photograph's Polish caption reads: "Vehicle found after the war at Koło on the grounds of the Ostrowski factory." Suppprisingly, whether this was in fact a "gas van" and how it would have operated is left to the visitor's imagination.

[36] See Document 3, taken from http://www.deathcamps.org/occupation/pic/bigChelmnovan.jpg.

[37] Fleming 1982, between pp. 128 and 129; see Document 2.

investigating judge Władysław Bednarz.[38] In his deposition he stated the following:[39]

> *"During the German occupation I worked as a mechanic for the German company 'KRAFT' in Koło, Asnyk Street. I worked for said company from April 1942 to 1943. I don't remember the exact dates. Our company repaired vehicles of the SS Sonderkommando from Culmhof. Once I was ordered to repair a vehicle which served to poison with gases. I cannot exactly remember when this happened. I think that it was in the summer of 1942. The vehicle was roughly 2.50 m high. Its length was 6 m, but its width*[40] *probably 2.50 m. The vehicle's color was black and had the shape of a box. The roof was flat and perpendicular to its walls. I believe that it was lined with sheet metal, but I am not certain about it. I did not look at the engine, and I have not paid attention to the make of the vehicle. The vehicle's doors could be locked with latch and keys."*

After the description of the vehicle, the witness spoke of repairs:

> *"The repair consisted of replacing a part between the flexible part of the exhaust pipe and the part which led into the vehicle's interior."*

He pointed out that the exhaust pipe consisted of three parts, of which the middle one was "flexible, like a hydraulic hose," and added that it

> *"could be connected to a pipe located in the floor of the vehicle, with the result that the exhaust gases flowed into the vehicle's interior."*

But the most important part of his deposition is this:

> *"Immediately before my employment at the 'Kraft' workshop I had been a driver at the forester Maj. In that connection I was frequently in the forest of Chełmno. In that period of time I frequently saw vehicles driving into the Chełmno forest and back. These were vehicles like those which I repaired later on in the 'Kraft' workshop. I had the impression that there were only two vehicles of the same size which encountered each other on their way.* […]

[38] The investigation of Judge Bednarz is archived in the collections "Ob-271" (9 volumes) and "Ob-19" (2 volumes) of AGK.

[39] Deposition by Bronisław Falborski of 11 June 1945. Facsimile of the original text in Alvarez 2011, Appendix 9.

[40] The text reads "*wysokość*" – "height," but as height has been mentioned before, this is evidently an erroneous replacement for "*szerokość*" – "width."

> *Three times I saw a converted moving truck van* [*z wozu meblewego*] *which is currently in the courtyard of the former 'Ostrowski'* Com*pany. Once I had already seen this vehicle in the forest, the second time on the road and the third time when it was just coming out of the courtyard of the Chełmno Castle. This was in spring 1943. I saw this vehicle repeatedly at intervals of several days. Recently I saw this truck in the courtyard of the Ostrowski factory, and I am absolutely certain that it is the same vehicle (size – shape – color)."*

The two photographs mentioned above come from the Commission of Inquiry into German Crimes in Poland, which apparently inspected the vehicle, including transcribing everything written on it (see Document 4):

> *"on the back door: Otto Köhn Spedition /Ruf 516 Zeulen da i Th*
> *on the left door: 40 km*
> *on a metal plate on the engine:*
> *'Humboldt-Deutz AG' Magirus-Werke 'Ulm / Donau*
> *Baujahr 1939 Lieferdat 739 Abn-Stempel*
> *Fahrgestell Nr. 9282/38 Nutzlast kg 2700*
> *Fahrgestell-Baumuster 023. Eigengewicht 4980 kg.*
> *Motor-Baumuster FoM 513 zul. Ges. Gew. 7900*
> *Leistung P.S. 105* cm^3 *7412 Zulässige Achsendrücke vorn kg 2400 hinten 5500."*

From a comparison of the two photographs we see that they portray the same vehicle from different angles and on two different dates. With regard to the position of the vehicle, in both photographs we see on the left a dome-shaped shed with a window that appears in perspective at the same height as the top of the vehicle windows; on the right, in the Fleming photo, we see a low building of which in the Ostrowski photograph we see a part of the wall and its shadow. The vehicle has the same shape and details (*e.g.* the metal plate fixed on the hood between the two windows, the white disc [containing the characters "40 km"] drawn on the left door, the two parallel bars in relief on the same door between the disk and the window).

Regarding the alleged "gas vans" Chełmno, Jerzy Halbersztadt, a member of the faculty of the University of Warsaw and of the Holocaust Museum in Washington, wrote a note of interest:[41]

[41] J. Halbersztadt, "Enquires on the Killing of the Gombin Jews," in: http://pages.ucsd.edu/~lzamosc/chelm00.htm.

"The case of Chełmno death camp was investigated by the Main Commission for the Investigation of German Crimes in Poland (it was the commission's name at the beginning of its existence) starting from May 1945. The commission received the information that in the town KOLO (ca. 12 km from Chełmno) in the former factory of Ostrowski there was a van which, according to the witnesses, was used in the death center at Chełmno. The van was found, photographed and researched.

The photos taken then are available in the Main Commission's Archives in Warsaw (signatures 47398, 47396, 47397, 47399; the best one is 47398). The captions of these photographs are still today: 'a car for killing people by the exhaust fumes at Chełmno.' One of these photos was reproduced in Fleming's book 'Hitler and the Final Solution' with the information that it is a photograph of a 'gaswagon' used in Chełmno.

Despite of their captions, the photographs do not show the gas van used in the Chełmno death camp. It is clear from the testimonies of Polish witnesses kept in the same archives of the Main Commission (collection 'Ob,' file 271 and others). Witnesses to whom the van photographed in Koło was shown did not confirm that it was one of those used in Chełmno for killing people. Some of them only said that it was similar to those described in their testimonies, but not the same. The most common answer was: 'I didn't see this one.'

The inspection of the van in Ostrowski factory, done on 13 November 1945 by the judge J. Bronowski, did not confirm the existence of any elements of system of gassing of the van's closed platform. The witnesses called this van 'a pantechnicon van' (a van to transport furniture). It was produced by 'Magirus-Werke' with a diesel type engine of 'Deutz.' The plate on the engine stated: 'Humboldt-Deutz A.G. 'Magirus-Werke' Ulm (Donau) Baujahr 1939 Lieferdat739 Abn-Stempel. Fahrgestell Nr. 9282/38 Nutzlast kg 2700 Fah[r]*gestell-Baumuster 023. Ei*[ge]*ngewicht 4980 kg. Motor Baumuster FoM 513 zul. Gesamt gew. 7900 Leistung P.S. 105 cm3 7412. Zulaessige Achsendruecke vorn kg 2400 hinten 5500.' The thickness of the car's wooden body was 7 cm, of the door – 8 cm. The walls, door, ceiling and floor were covered from the inside with the 2 mm sheet iron. The car was painted in grey-lead color. Under this paint the inscription was seen on the door of the cab: 'Otto Koehn Spedition Ruf 516 Zeulen… da i.TH.'*

I cite all these details to make possible the further comments to the story of this van. It is my feeling that there are some unclear points in this story. Nobody explained for what purpose this van was used. Its door was tightened with an impregnated canvas. What for? Some witnesses had seen this car in the area of the forest of Chełmno starting from the spring of 1942. It is possible that it belonged to the SS Sonderkommando Kulmhof, too. I came across a version that this van was used for a disinfection of victims' clothes but there are no grounds for it.
In 1945 the prosecutors came to the conclusion that this van was not a gas van of Chełmno. The van was left incomplete and not serviceable in Ostrowski's factory at least till 1950. The last known documents (a correspondence between the Association of Combatants 'ZBoWiD' in Koło and the Main Commission) of April 1950 inform that there was an idea to move this van to the museum in Auschwitz or Majdanek (till 1990 there was no museum in the Chełmno forest; [the] *first monument was erected there in 1964). Those plans were not accomplished and the van was scrapped, probably.*
Thus, there is no reliable graphic illustration of the gas vans used in Chełmno. However, the testimonies of witnesses contain many important data on these vehicles. In 1945 and later Polish authorities examined some Poles who stayed in the area of Chełmno after the removal of the vast majority of the Polish population to the GG in 1939-1940. The witnesses were able to identify gas vans very well. They declared that there were three or four gas vans, one of them was a bit bigger. All of them were black. The cars' bodies were boxes made of boards. The length of a biggest vehicle was 5.5-6 m. It was ca. 2.5 m high and 2.5 m wide. Each vehicle was guarded all the time (even during the repair in the local factories) by two watchmen, who did not give anybody the access to the van and, especially, to the chassis and the closed box (platform).
However, at least three witnesses were able to see the vehicles from the short distance. Mr. Jozef Piaskowski (b. 1908) was employed in the Reichsstrassenbauamt in Koło (former Ostrowski factory). In the winter 1941/42 he was ordered to repair the damaged cooler in the biggest of Chełmno vans. Piaskowski was an experienced driver. He declared later that he has never seen the motor of this type. 'The motor was a bit odd.' 'It was enormous.' The most interesting [thing] *in his report is the description of the exhaust system. He has noticed*

that the exhaust pipe was divided into three parts. First and third were done of metal as in normal cars. But the central part was done of the elastic, 'hydraulic' pipe which could join both standard tubes or could be screwed to the hole in the van's floor. After the repair of the cooler, when the motor was tested, so much exhaust fumes were produced that the air in the garage (size 30 m x 12 m) started immediately to be blue. The German bosses ordered to open all windows and doors. The workers who spent a very short time in the polluted air have got headache. The witness heard later their comments that the motor of this car uses 75 liters of petrol per 100 km, so twice more than normal motors do. Piaskowski stated that he had seen two military type gas-masks in the driver's cab. Piaskowski's colleague, Mr. Bronisław Mańkowski (b. 1882) confirmed his story and added that he had seen the van when the middle part of the exhaust tube was join[ed] *to the hole in the car's floor. Mańkowski declared that he looked inside the box when the watchmen left their posts for a while. He had seen a hole covered with a perforated sheet* [of] *iron in the middle of the wooden floor.*

Another witness, Mr. Bronisław Falborski (b. 1910), was employed in the 'Kraft' company in Koło, where the vehicles of the SS Sonderkommando Kulmhof were repaired, starting from 1942. In summer 1942 he received the order to repair one of the gas vans. His description of the exhaust pipe is in general the same as done by witnesses cited above. The only (but important) difference is the description of the connection of elastic pipe with the hole in the car's floor. According to Falborski (who made even a picture) they were join[ed] *by two fasteners tightened by four screws. It seems that this connection was permanent, quite difficult to change and only optionally substituted by the standard connection of both metal parts of the exhaust pipe as in normal cars. Falborski's report seems reliable as his task was to make this connection air-tight by the change of the packing between two fasteners.*

The cases of the repair of gas vans in the local workshops of Koło seem to be rare and exceptional. Probably it happened only in necessity when it was impossible to use military- or SS motor services.

The Chełmno death center stopped to operate many months before the liberation of this site. The gas vans were very easy to move from the area of Chełmno-Koło and to change into standard vans with very little signs of their previous function. It is very difficult to think

> *that* [the] *SS murder*[er]*s (who tried to destroy all evidences of genocide, like crematoria, camps, corpses, etc.) could simply forget a gas van near to Chełmno or elsewhere."*

J. Halbersztadt states that the Central Commission of Inquiry into German Crimes in Poland inspected the vehicle which was located at the former Ostrowski Company on 13 November 1945 and confirmed that it was *not* a "gas van." Nevertheless, according Halbersztadt the Polish authorities decided in 1950 to transfer the vehicle in question to the Museum of Auschwitz or Majdanek, apparently to show it as a real "gas van." However, this vehicle was traveling regularly between Chełmno Palace and the forest, because it necessarily belonged to the SS *Sonderkommando* Kulmhof.[42]

In his report of 7 January 1946, the investigating Judge Bednarz wrote as follows (1946d, p. 5):

> *"The camp's Sonderkommando didn't have a car repair shop, so that vehicles requiring repairs were brought very quickly to the workshop of the company Kraft- und Reichsstrassenbauamt in Koło. Eight Polish mechanics of this workshop described these vehicles' technical design as follows: the vehicles' dimensions were 2.5 to 3 m in width and 6 m in length; the smallest were 2.3 to 2.5 meters wide and 4.5 to 5 m long. The cargo box was made of narrow boards bolted together. Inside the vehicle was covered with sheet metal. The door was airtight, so any flow of air from the outside was absolutely impossible. The vehicles were dark gray. The exhaust pipe was under the vehicle and was connected in the middle of its length* [in the middle of the back]. *The opening of the exhaust pipe inside the vehicle was fitted with a perforated sheet which prevented the tube from being clogged. On the floor of the vehicle was a wooden grate. The engine was probably from the Sauer company. The driver's cabin bore the inscription 'Baujahr 1940 – Berlin' (built in 1940). Near the driver's seat were gas masks."*

This description – except for the words "*Baujahr 1940 – Berlin*" also fits the Ostrowski vehicle well (even though Magirus trucks never had Saurer engines). Its picture shows clearly that "the body was built with narrow planks bolted together," and in particular in the part of the body above the windows of the cab, where some boards had been removed. The presence of gas masks in the cab refers to the deposition of one

[42] Only one vehicle of the SS *Sonderkommando* was permitted to move freely in the off-limits area.

witness ("Piaskowski declared that he saw two military-type gas masks in the cab").

At that time two types of masks against carbon monoxide existed in Germany: the CO-Degea mask produced by the Auer company and the CO-Draeger mask. Because the adsorbents used in the filters absorbed humidity from the air, the filters had to be stored in airtight boxes in order to prevent their premature failure due to moisture (Izzo 1935, pp. 181-187). There is no evidence that the masks allegedly seen by witnesses were masks for carbon monoxide and not the normal gas masks issued to the army, which in Auschwitz members of the SS had to have with them even when they were admitted to the SS infirmary (SS *Revier*)![43]

As far as the alleged "gas vans" are concerned, any use of masks against CO would be entirely unnecessary if the manufacturers of these alleged gas vans had taken the elementary precaution of installing a sealable opening at the front of the body, above the cab, whereby, after the alleged homicidal gassing, by opening this and the back door and by driving the vehicle at low speed, a stream of air would have been produced in the body that would have eliminated the toxic gas in a few minutes. But, as is well-known, this would be asking too much of German "technical genius"!

In a revised edition of the report mentioned above, W. Bednarz added further details on the issue of the Polish mechanics (Bednarz 1946a, pp. 23f.):

> *"Three vehicles operated at Chełmno. The largest had a capacity of about 150 people. (The witness Ross stated that he had heard someone say to a man of the Sonderkommando that 150 people fit into the vehicle, but 'with the whip' 175 people. The witness Kozanecki said the vehicle contained 150 adults (or 200 children). The two smaller vehicles contained 80-100 people (according to similar statements by other witnesses). Some witnesses also spoke of a fourth vehicle. As for the possibility that there was a fourth vehicle of a similar shape (which is currently at the former Ostrowski factory at Koło) and which was used to disinfect clothing or which was a closed vehicle for transporting Jewish workers to the forest, the statements that a fourth gassing vehicle had allegedly existed should be consid-*

43 *Standortbefehl Nr. 19/44* of 14 July 1944, in: Frei *et al.* 2000, p. 469; see also p. 49 (*Kommandanturbefehl Nr. 13/41* of 13 June 1941) and p. 353 (*Standortbefehl Nr. 46/43* of 14 October 1943).

ered with some skepticism, as it is possible that there is an error due to the reasons mentioned above.

The [gas] *vehicles were often damaged, and the Sonderkommando made the mistake of not having their own repair shops. So the vehicles, including the gas vans,*[44] *officially called by them* [the SS] *'Spezialwagen,' had to be brought to the workshops at Koło (of said Kraft- und Reichsstrassenbauamt), whose staff was composed almost entirely of Poles. This enabled simple mechanics such as Piaskowski – card 16,*[45] *Falborski – card 28, Rossa – card 43, Mańkowski – card 30, Fójcik – card 222, Junkiert – card 320, Lewandowski – card 189, Jankowski – card 117, to get to know the configuration of the vehicles.*

All these witnesses were examined at different times and even in different locations. Each of them made a sketch with their own hand of the exhaust pipe and of its entrance to the inside of the vehicle."

From the above, these are some clear conclusions:

1. The Ostrowski vehicle was not a "gas van."
2. No photograph of a "gas van" exists.

Precisely because it was not a "gas vans," the Ostrowski vehicle – the only one documented – raises doubts regarding the existence of "gas vans" at Chełmno. Since it certainly belonged to the Kulmhof *Sonderkommando* and was seen to travel between the palace and the forest, yet obviously without any homicidal purpose, why then would the other two or three similar trucks necessarily be "gas vans"? Everything is down to testimonies. I will deal with these in detail in Chapter 7. Here it is important to note that according to the defendant Bruno Israel, an ethnic-German police officer who was transferred to Chełmno in July-August 1944,[46] in addition to two gassing "special vehicles" at the camp "there was also a third vehicle that was used to fumigate clothes." He pointed out in this regard (Bednarz 1946a, p. 72):

"The photographs shown to me (the accused was shown the photographs on pages 397 and 398 of the documents) precisely depict the vehicle described by me."

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[44] "*Komory gazowe*," literally "the gas chamber."

[45] Reference to card numbers of the respective depositions within the investigation, reference no. III 13/45 NT (Bednarz 1946a, p. 12, footnote).

[46] Krakowski writes that B. Israel was tried and convicted in October 1945, but soon was back at large (2007, p. 177).

But the only existing photographs of a vehicle used in Chełmno were those of the vehicle that was found in the former Ostrowski works in Koło.

Incredibly, Krakowski believes that this vehicle was a real gas van. Criticizing Poles for their anti-Semitic attitude after the war, he states (2007, p. 194):

> *"No one thought it necessary to keep one of the gas vans that the Germans had left behind in their flight. Thus an important object and many traces disappeared that attested to the existence of an extermination camp in the village of Chełmno."*

As pointed out by Weckert (1985, pp. 14f.), while the alleged use by the Germans of Saurer trucks as the "gas vans" is at least understandable, because this company, although Swiss, had a branch in Vienna, which in 1941 was part of Greater Germany, the choice of Diamond trucks is absolutely inexplicable, since it was an American company that, after Pearl Harbor, about the time of the alleged entry into service of Chełmno, obviously no longer supplied trucks or spare parts to Germany.

In 1941 the Diamond Company produced two series of army trucks, Models 967 and 968. The second was designed in 1939, adapted for production in 1940 and produced from 1941 to 1945. This vehicle was 6.83 meters long and 2.44 wide, powered by a Hercules RXC 6-cylinder 8,668 cm^3 gasoline engine.[47] The body of the vehicle was not much longer than the cab, which is less than 4 meters (see Document 4a). The Diamond truck was therefore not the most-suitable vehicle for special use as a "gas van," but it is more likely that, if the Chełmno *Sonderkommando* had one, it was used for normal purposes like the truck that was found in the courtyard of the Ostrowski Company.

As part of the documentary evidence on the alleged gassings at Chełmno, the height of absurdity is reached by the famous work *Faschismus – Getto – Massenmord*, published by the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw. Here is published an invoice of *Kopernikus-Apotheke* (Copernicus Pharmacy) of Posen dated 31 March 1942 "to the Reich Commissioner for the Strengthening of the German National Character" (*für den Beauftragten Reichskommissars des für die deutschen Festigung Volkstums*) for 1,641 kg of "chlorinated lime" (*Chlorkalk*). The document bears the stamp in the lower left of the administration of the Litzmannstadt ghetto (*Getto-Verwaltung Litzmannstadt*;

[47] "Diamond T Models 967, 968," in: www.thewheelsofsteel.com/diamond-t-models-967-968; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diamond_T

see Document 5). And here is the incredible caption that accompanies it (Jüdisches Historisches… 1960, p. 279):

> *"Chloride of lime was strewn inside the wagons which served to transport the Jews to the Kulmhof death camp."*

Clearly reminiscent of the propaganda stories of Jan Karski about Bełżec! (See Mattogno 2004b, pp. 22-33)

Another alleged proof is an invoice from the Heyne Motors Company (Heyne-Motoren) of Leipzig addressed to SS *Sonderkommando* X for the attention of the SS *Hauptsturmführer* Police Detective Bothmann, Kulmhof (*an das* SS *Sonderkommando* SS *X* (*z. H. Herrn* SS *Hauptsturmführer Krim.-Kom. Bothmann Kulmhof*) concerning "1 used diesel engine guaranteed operational" (*1 Stck. gebrauchter betriebssicherer Dieselmotor*) amounting to RM 1,400 (see Document 6). The book's caption accompanying the document is an outrageous lie (Jüdisches Historisches… 1960, p. 282):

> *"Supply of a diesel engine to the SS Sonderkommando Bothmann for the gassing of Jews in the death camp of Kulmhof."*

Here the commentator has forgotten that, according to the official thesis, the gassing took place using "gas vans" and not by means of a stationary diesel engine, a method of extermination that Holocaust historiography attributes instead to the camps of Bełżec, Sobibor and Treblinka.

It is all too obvious that the "chloride of lime" was used for the purpose of disinfection and the diesel engine was to drive an electricity generator.

5. The "First Systematic Extermination of Jews in the Warthegau"

G. Aly writes (1995, pp. 354f.):

> *"Already on September 26* [1941] *Krumey*[48] *had sent 900 Jewish women and children at a time from the Łódź ghetto via Leslau (Włocławek) by rail. Three days later there was another transfer from the same location with more than 1,000 persons – 'again almost exclusively women and children.' And a third transport followed.* […]
>
> *The first systematic extermination of Jews in the Warthegau fits into this context also. Neither the exact date nor the instrument of extermination is known – gas vans or shooting? However, there is agreement on the fact that it took place in late September/early October.*
>
> *If we consider the principles upon which Höppner, Krumey and the like acted, this crime took place exactly when it was certain that, after the ghettoization of the Jews of Loslau and Łódź, further deportations would be impossible because of the resistance of the local authorities. According to the report of Isaiah Trunk,*[49] *the following happened:*
>
> *'(Then) the entire Jewish population of the Konin district, about 3,000 persons, was concentrated in Sagurawe (Hinterberg in German). First, all men between 14 and 60 years and all women between 14 and 50 years had to undergo a medical examination and pay four marks each for this. In this way, as it is said, suitability for work was determined. Finally the transfer began, which is claimed to have been by truck to the nearby city of Koil and thence by rail to Łódź. In fact, the people, 60 at a time on a truck, were taken out into the nearby woods at Kazimierz (Biskup), where they were killed.'"*

The alleged "agreement" of the sources, which supposedly ascertains this alleged crime of which "neither the exact date nor the instrument" is known, is actually a single source, which for the most part was concocted by Isaiah Trunk. This source is a clandestine report called "Mass

48 Hermann Krumey, SS *Obersturmbannführer,* official at the Litzmannstadt station of the State Police.

49 That is a report quoted by I. Trunk. See below.

executions of Jews in the district of Koło" dated 25 March 1942, from which we have this passage from Trunk:[50]

> *"In October 1941 the whole Jewish population of the district of Koniń – about 3,000 people – was concentrated in Zagórów (Hinterberg). First they had to pay a 'poll tax' of 4 RM per person and undergo a medical examination – the examination included men from 14 to 60 years and women from 14 to 50 years and was apparently intended to establish suitability to work, after which the so-called 'transfer' began. The Jews were transported in trucks, 60 at a time, and each could take a package of 1 kg. The journey ended in the Kazimierz woods on the outskirts of Zagórów, where the Jews got out and were taken into the woods. From that moment all trace of them was lost, and nothing is known; neither inquiries in writing nor by messengers sent either to the Reich or to the General Government yielded any results.*
>
> *Halfway through December, a similar 'transfer' took place in the Koło district (Wartebrücken). The destination was the village of Chełmno (Kulmhof). The entire Jewish population of Koło (2,000 persons) and Dąbie upon Ner (1,000 persons) was sent there (also after payment of a tax of 4 RM and after medical examination), then in early January, in succession, the Jews of Kłodawa (January 2 and 4), of Izbica Kujawska (January 6 and 9), and of Bugaj (January 9)."*

A later report in the *Oyneg Shabbos* (clandestine archive of the Warsaw Ghetto, also known as the Ringelblum archive), clearly derived from the aforementioned source, says with regard to this (Sakowska 1993, p. 186):

> *"In the second half of November 1941, in the city and district of Koło (district of Warthbrücken), news began to spread that the entire Jewish population of these areas had been transferred to the region of Pinsk or to Eastern Galicia. The German authorities imposed a poll tax of 4 RM on the entire Jewish population, and all men aged 14 to 60 years and women up to 50 years underwent a medical examination to ascertain their suitability for work. Concerned by these facts, the Jewish community endeavored to obtain information on the matter of the transfer, but their efforts were in vain. All that can be established is the fact that, after this prelude,*

[50] Report entitled "*Masowe egzekucje Żydów w pow. kolskim*" (mass execution of the Jews of the Koło district) of 25 March 1942, in: Tyszkowa 1992a, p. 52.

> *the Jewish community of Zagórów in the Konin district was transported by truck to the Kazimierz woods, located near the city, where all trace of it was lost."*

Hence neither report claimed that the deported Jews had been killed. But the most surprising thing in this story is that the SS would have made a "selection" in reverse (men 14 to 60 years, women 14 to 50 years) in order to exterminate those able to work – after a medical examination to confirm their ability to work! Maybe the SS were afraid of killing any Jew incapable of work? – while at the same time they sent the transport of Jews unable to work to the Łódź ghetto!

Krakowski states that Jews from the district of Konin were killed in two places, the Niesłusz-Rudzica Woods and the Wygoda Woods. He then reports a long testimony given on 27 October 1945 by the Polish veterinary surgeon Mieczysław Sekiewicz on the alleged massacre in the Wygoda Woods. The Germans had allegedly prepared two pits in those woods and had forced the Jews to strip naked and get down into the larger pit, whose bottom was covered with lime (Krakowski 2007, p. 24):

> *"Then – the witness continues – a truck appeared on the side of the road which stopped on the path at the edge of the clearing. I noticed that there was something on the truck, like tubs for washing. The Germans then started up a small engine, which was clearly a pump, and connected it via a tube to one of the tubs. Two Gestapo agents held the pipes and began to sprinkle the Jews herded into the pit with a liquid. I think it was water, as it appeared to be, but I cannot be sure. During the pumping operation, they connected the tubes to each of the other tubs. People began to cook while still alive, and this was certainly due to the boiling fresh lime.* […] *This all went on for two hours."*

A truly original execution system: Death by showering with water and a disinfectant! To be sure, up to the 1940s the vast majority of the eastern European population had never seen a shower in their lives, so the witness's consternation is comprehensible. But how could the more-cosmopolitan western historians interpret this as a method of extermination?

6. The First Testimony: The "Szlamek" Report

6.1. Origins of the Report

Krakowski wrote in this connection (1983, p. 131):

> *"Only a few Jews managed to flee from the 'Arbeitskommando' (labor squad). The first was Jakov Grojanowski, who then contacted Dr. Emanuel Ringelblum in the Warsaw ghetto, who was director of the clandestine archive 'Oneg Shabbat,' and was able to deliver to him in 1942 a report written in his own hand on the Kulmhof death factory. Grojanowski died in the ghetto, but his report was found in the ruins of the ghetto among Ringelblum's documents."*

This report is a long document written in Yiddish and allegedly based on the account of a Jew from Izbica Kujawska known as "Szlamek," whose identity is uncertain.[51] Ruta Sakowska rejects the name of Yakov Grojanowski (or Jakub Grojnowski or Yakov Grojanowski) and identifies it with Szlojme Fajner, one of the three who escaped from Chełmno,[52] stating (Sakowska 1993, p. 184):

> *"In the catalog of the archive of the ghetto that was drawn up after the war on the basis of Hersz Wasser's information, his report is also registered under the name of Jakub Grojnowski, but it is unknown whether this is the real name of the author; the narrator figures in the text as 'Szlojme' ('Szlamek' is a diminutive of this name), not as Jakub."*

Krakowski writes that Jakov Grojanowski was a pseudonym and considered it likely that the person in question was Schlomo Winer, an alleged fugitive from Chełmno. However, he makes no mention of the name "Szlamek" (Krakowski 2007, pp. 61f.).

It is unclear whether the report was written by "Szlamek" personally or by Hersz Wasser, secretary of *Oyneg Shabbos*, based on the state-

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51 A German translation of the report can be found in Sakowska 1993, pp. 159-182, entitled: "[Februar] *1942, Warschau, Ghetto. Als Totengräber im Vernichtungslager. Augenzeugenbericht über die Ermordung von Juden und Zigeunern in der Gaswagenstation Chełmno am Ner vom 5. bis zum 19. Januar 1942, mitgeteilt von 'Szlamek,' der von dort fliehen konnte* [aufgezeichnet von Hersz Wasser]"; an English translation can be found in Gilbert 1985, pp. 252-279. Gilbert attributes this report to Yakov Grojanowski.

52 The other two, who survived the war, were Abram and Michał Roj or Mordka Podchlebnik; see Subsection 7.2.3.

ments of the witness. What is certain is that Wasser later, on 25 March 1942, drew up a summary of the report "on the basis of what Szlamek said."[53]

Both reports come from the archive *Oyneg Shabbos*.

6.2. General Characteristics of Report

The witness affirms that he was arrested on 5 January 1942 and that he worked from 6 January until the day of his escape, 19 January, at Chełmno, where, as we shall see, Jews and Gypsies were allegedly murdered with "gas vehicles." The report is drawn up as a diary in which events are recorded each day with an extraordinary wealth of detail when you consider that the witness wrote down or recounted these events from memory. I summarize, as an example, the entry for 9 January. We should first note that, as soon as they arrived at Chełmno, the "diggers," including "Szlamek," had to hand over "all money and valuables" (Sakowska 1993, p. 160), and therefore watches. How could he then always be so sure about the time? I quote (*ibid.*, pp. 169-171):

> *"On Friday, 9 January, at seven o'clock in the morning we were again brought some bitter coffee.* […] *At eight o'clock the SS arrived.* […] *The courtyard was already surrounded by some 20 policemen with submachine guns.* […] *In the courtyard we saw two open trucks full of Gypsies, men, women and children with their belongings.* […] *We were in the front of the vehicle and behind were seven policemen armed with submachine guns ready to fire.* […]
> […] *another eight persons were selected* […]. *An hour later the first truck arrived with Gypsies, and forty minutes later the next one.* […] *Among them* [the 8 gravediggers] *were: Abram Zielinski from Izbica, 32 years old, Brawman from Izbica, 17 years of age, Zalman Jakubowski from Izbica, 55 years of age, and Gerszon Praszker from Izbica.* […] *Around three* [in the afternoon], *when there was not much work* […]. *That day we had lunch at one thirty* […]. *That day eight or nine transports of Gypsies were buried. We finished work at five thirty* […]. *In the Chełmno Castle, we saw to our painful surprise a new group, possibly gravediggers: 16 men from Izbica and 16 men from Bugaj. Among the men from Izbica were: Mojsze Lepek, about*

[53] Sakowska 1992, p. 23. Polish text in Tyszkowa 1992a, pp. 52-54. German translation in Sakowska 1993, pp. 186-189.

> *40 years of age; Awigdor Polański, about 20 years of age; Sztajer, about 55 years of age; Król, about 45 years of age, Icchak Prajs, about 45 years of age, Jehuda Lubiński, 31 years of age, Kalman Radziejewski, 32 years of age, Menachem Arcichowski, about 40 years of age, and from Bugaj my companion and friend Izbicki, 33 years of age. Twenty old gravediggers and five new ones, 25 in all, were pushed into another cellar, a little smaller than the earlier one. We found bed linen, personal linen, shirts, jackets and basic foodstuffs (bread, sugar and lard).”*

The story goes on and on like this – indeed, even more detailed – for fifteen days: a truly prodigious memory.

6.3. Structure and Function of a “Gas Van”

The witness provides this detailed description of a “gas van” (*ibid.*, pp. 162f.):

> *“The vehicle had a special design. It looked something like this: It was as large as a normal truck, of gray color, but at the back it was closed hermetically with two doors. Its interior was lined with sheet metal, it had no seats, on the floor was a wooden grate, like in a bathroom, and on it was a straw mat. Between the cargo box and the cab were two small windows through which, with* [the help of] *electric lights, it was checked whether the victims were already dead. Under the wooden grates were two 15-cm-diameter pipes leading to the cockpit. They were connected to the openings through which the gas flowed. The gas apparatus was in the cab, in which only the driver was sitting, who was always the same, in uniform with the SS death’s head. He was maybe 40 years. There were two vehicles of this kind.*
>
> *When a truck arrived, it stopped about five meters away from the ditch. The head of the group of guards, a high-ranking SS man, was a sadist and a hard-boiled gangster. He ordered the eight men to open the doors of the vehicles. Immediately we were struck by a deep and pungent smell of gas. They had killed Gypsies from Łódź. Their belongings were still in the vehicle: harmonicas, violins, duvets, even watches and gold jewelry. After about five minutes of*

> *waiting with open doors, the SS man shouted: 'You Jews, inside and throw out everything!'"*

The witness gave further details (*ibid.*, p. 166):

> *"As the companions of the eight gravediggers told us, there is a special device with buttons in the driver's cab that is connected by two tubes to the interior of the cargo box. The driver (there were two for the two execution vehicles, always the same persons) pressed a button and got out of the vehicle. Then you could hear screams from the vehicle, desperate cries and banging against the outside wall. This lasted about 15 minutes; then the driver got into the cabin, where he shone an electric lamp into the interior through a glas pane in order to see whether the people were already dead, and then he approached the pit with the truck up to a distance of about five meters. After another five minutes, 'bull's pizzle' ordered four gravediggers to open the doors. A strong smell of gas came out. After waiting another five minutes, he shouted: 'You Jews, you go to put tefilin' – meaning to throw out the corpses. They lay clinging to each other in the dirt of their excrements."*

And here is what happened then (*ibid.*, p. 167):

> *"Four gravediggers threw out the corpses, of course encouraged by beatings and screams. The corpses were thrown together in a pile; two other* [prisoners] *dragged the corpses to the grave and threw them in there. Down there were two more who piled the corpses on the instructions of an SS man. When the vehicle was empty, the gravediggers started cleaning up the excrements and other dirt. The straw mat and wooden grate were taken out of the truck and* [they] *cleaned the truck with their own shirts* [sic] *before putting the grate and the mat back in place. The exterior double door was hermetically sealed with a bolt."*

How did these vehicles of death work? And did these "gas vans" operate with engine-exhaust gas? It is not known. What is certain is that the description of the witness is in stark contrast to the orthodox version on two essential points. First, according to this orthodox version, the victims were loaded into the "gas vans" at Chełmno Castle and murdered on the way to the camp, whereas the testimony reviewed here claims that the assassination was carried out directly at the camp in a hermetically closed "gas van" and even in the absence of the driver.

Second, according to the orthodox version it was necessary to connect the exhaust pipe of the engine with a special flexible pipe to the interior of the cargo box, an operation that was performed outside the vehicle. This witness, however, speaks of a "gas system" equipped with "buttons" that was "in the cab" and was linked to "two 15-cm-diameter pipes" that ran along the floor of the cargo box "under the wooden grates." In order to inject the gas into the body of the truck, all that was needed was to press a "button" of the "gas apparatus." It remains undetermined whether the engine was switched on or off and whether the killing was done by means of engine-exhaust gas or another gas. The first hypothesis of a running engine is in contradiction to the statement about the "gas apparatus," because it was not possible, simply by pressing a "button" in the cab, to tightly connect a pipe or hose to the exhaust pipe which would have connected it to the two pipes that were allegedly located in the vehicle's cargo box.

The witness further stated that the two rear doors were "hermetically" sealed and that, when the van was opened, he smelled "a strong smell of gas." Now, in the history of the "gas vans," if one thing is certain it is that the system of piping engine-exhaust gases into a hermetically sealed cargo box cannot work, because the pressure inside the sealed cargo box would either shut down the engine or burst the cargo box (see Alvarez 2011, Subsection 1.3.2.). Hence the witness could not have described a real fact.

6.4. The Color of the Corpses[54]

About the corpses the report states:

> *"What was the appearance of the corpses? They were neither burned nor black. The complexion of their faces was unchanged. Almost all the dead were lying in their excrement."* (Sakowska 1993, p. 163)
>
> *"It seemed that they were only put to sleep; their cheeks were pale, and they maintained their natural skin color."* (*ibid.*, p. 166)

The color of the corpse of a person dead by asphyxiation from carbon monoxide is known to be "cherry red" or "pink" (Berg 2003, p. 439, esp. note 22).

[54] For a profound treatment of this see: Mattogno/Kues/Graf 2013, pp. 945-949, 964-976.

Charles D. Provan has challenged this finding, citing some examples of medical literature which *also* mention a bluish color in cases of carbon-monoxide poisoning. Provan cites a 1970 medical source on a group of suicides by carbon-monoxide poisoning which had the following colors: 51 normal color; 7 bluish, 14 red, 5 cherry pink, 4 pale. Another group of people poisoned accidentally had the following colors: 44 normal color, 5 bluish, 3 red, 4 cherry pink, 2 pale. According to these examples the prevailing color is normal, but another medical source proffered by Provan explains (2004, pp. 160-162):

> *"At autopsy the most striking appearance of the body is the color of the skin, especially in areas of post-mortem hypostasis. The classical 'cherry-pink' color of carboxy-hemoglobin is usually evident if the saturation of the blood exceeds about 30%. Below this, familiarity and good lighting are needed and below 20%, no coloration is visible. As these low concentrations are rarely fatal, however, little is lost."*

So the color "cherry pink" usually manifests itself when the carboxy-hemoglobin level in the blood "exceeds 30%." Since the "gas vans" supposedly were instruments of murder which killed the victims in 20 minutes (Sakowska 1993, p. 166), the victims must have had a much higher percentage than 30% of carboxy-hemoglobin in their blood. According Flury and Zernik, in fact, a percentage of 40-50% produces "headache; a state of confusion; in case of stress, collapse and fainting," and a percentage of 60-70% "loss of consciousness, for prolonged exposure respiratory arrest" (Flury/Zernik 1931, p. 202; see also Berg 2005; Kues 2008).

A study on the forensic autopsy reports of 182 bodies of people who died accidentally from carbon-monoxide poisoning in Vienna between 1984 and 1994 resulted in (Risser/Bonsch/Schneider 1995, p. 596):

> *"We found a strong association between the carboxyhemoglobin level and the cherry-coloring of pink livor mortis. In 98.4% of unintentional carbon-monoxide-related deaths livor mortis were clearly cherry-pink."*

The study confirmed that

> *"fresh corpses with carboxyhemoglobin levels greater than 31% show a clear cherry-pink coloring of livor mortis."*

So the alleged victims of "gas vans" murdering with carbon monoxide should normally have a "cherry-pink" color, but, as we have seen, according to the witness, they had a "natural skin tone."

Therefore, if the witness described a reality in this case, the corpses he witnessed had not died of poisoning by exhaust gas.

6.5. The Mass Graves

The corpses of the alleged victims were buried in very peculiar mass graves which the witness describes as follows (Sakowska 1993, p. 170):

> *"We took up hoes and spades and began to work. The pit bottom was about one and a half meters wide; the hole became wider at the top, reaching a width of five meters at the surface, and it was five meters deep. The mass grave proceeded as a long line. When a tree was an obstacle, it was cut down."*

And here is how the burial of corpses took place (*ibid.*, p. 163):

> *"A layer contained 180-200 corpses. After three trucks had arrived, twenty gravediggers were employed to bury the bodies. At first they had to fill two graves each time. Then, when the number of vehicles grew to nine (nine times 60 corpses at a time) we had to fill three graves a day."*

According to the first description (entry of 9 January 1942), there was only one pit with a cross section of a regular inverted trapezoid with a lower, smaller width of 1.5 m, a height of 5 m and an upper, larger width of 5 m. The length is not given because the pit, which looked like a "long line," was extended from day to day. In the course of this work, if there was a tree on the route of the trench, it was "cut," which is not very rational, because the roots had to be uprooted (which the witness does not mention). The second description cited above (entry of 7 January) instead presupposes the presence of several graves – we must assume of the shape indicated above.

According to the witness, in these pits there was "a layer containing 180-200 corpses," and every day three pits were filled. Here the term "layer" should not be understood in the strict meaning (in which case the sentence would make no sense), as is clear from the term that appears in the English translation of the report presented by Martin Gil-

bert: "batch" (1985, p. 256). This means that each grave contained 180-200 bodies.

From the measurements given by the witness, the following data ensue:

– Assuming a packing density of eight bodies per cubic meter, a section of a mass grave is of 13.5 m^2 (assuming a depth of 4.5 m, with a layer of 0.5 m of soil on top of the corpses);
– 200 corpses occupy 25 m^3;
– so the length of a pit was a mere (25÷13.5 =) 1.85 meters!

It was therefore quite an unusual pit, both in shape and size. The testimony suggests that the pits were dug by hand by "gravediggers," because it says, "We took up hoes and spades and began to work," and suddenly afterward it talks about a pit. However, leaving aside the difficulties of digging a pit by hand in the shape mentioned above, the work would have a much more serious impediment. In fact, the witness says (January 9): "The cold reached 20 degrees [below zero]" (Sakowska 1993, p. 170) and confirmed on 13 January, "we worked until six in the afternoon in intense cold" (*ibid.*, p. 176).

The ground was therefore frozen; so how could they dig by hand three pits (or sections of pits) per day?

No less problematic is what the witness adds about the state of the corpses (*ibid.*, p. 179):

> *"On Friday* [16 January] *they began to sprinkle the graves with chloride of lime, because the rotting corpses gave off a strong smell."*

But if the temperature was 20 degrees below zero, how could the bodies decompose? Here too, then, the witness could not have been describing any reality.

In conclusion, the report "Szlamek" does not correspond to reality and is therefore totally unreliable.

Perhaps that is why Krakowski, in his 2007 book (pp. 62-64), preferred not to mention it at all, merely referring generally to its content according to the story of Yitzchak Zuckermann, a member of *Oyneg Shabbos*.

7. Postwar Witnesses

7.1. The SS

7.1.1. Walter Piller

Krakowski quotes a report written by SS *Hauptscharführer* Walter Piller (Chełmno camp Deputy Commander in 1944) "during his Russian imprisonment in May 1945" in which, in relation to the second phase of the camp, he wrote (Krakowski 1983, pp. 138f.):

> *"I think it was at the beginning or end of May when the extermination of the Jews of the Łódź ghetto began, and it lasted until mid-August 1944.* […] *According to my calculations, the number of exterminated Jews amounted to 25,000. I am unable to state the exact figure. But the number of Jews above or below this figure should be small. To arrive at this figure, I use the following calculation: Each transport of Jews from the Łódź ghetto contained 700 people (some were fewer, even 300). But I want to take 700 as a base. Each week three transports arrived, making 2,100 people a week. The Kommando worked continuously month by month as follows: two weeks in May, in June and July continuously, therefore eight weeks, and in August another two weeks. This results in a total in 12 weeks of* [12 × 2100 =] *25,200 Jews. In mid-August the ongoing transport of Jews was stopped completely."*

However, as Adalbert Rückerl writes, the first Jewish transport supposedly sent from the Łódź ghetto to Chełmno left on 23 June 1944 (Rückerl 1979, p. 284), not in mid-May. The deportations stopped "in July 1944" (*ibid.*, p. 283), more precisely on 14 July (*ibid.*, p. 293), not in mid-August.

On the other hand, as discussed in Chapter 13, the Bonn Jury Court (erroneously) recognized only 10 transports for 1944 instead of 36, which means that there is not even a vague indication in favor of Piller's allegations; moreover, these 10 transports left one per day for 10 consecutive days, but Piller said that three transports came to Chełmno each week. His testimony is therefore absolutely unreliable.

7.1.2. Bruno Israel

Bruno Israel, as I mentioned earlier, was assigned to the Chełmno police in July/August 1944. On 29 and 30 October 1945 he was interrogated as a defendant by Judge Bednarz, who published the interrogation (Bednarz 1946a, pp. 67-74). Krakowski writes in this regard (1983, p. 177):

> *"Israel was interrogated and sentenced already in October 1945 by Judge Bednarz, but he was released already a short while afterwards."*

Israel stated that during his stay at the camp two transports arrived from Łódź of 700-800 Jews each. The victims came from Koło to Chełmno in a train of 15-17 train cars, two of which were loaded with luggage. This luggage was transferred by truck to the camp into a large shed where they were sorted. The Jews were transported to the camp in three covered trucks, each carrying 40-50 people. Each vehicle made two, three or maybe four trips per day, and in some cases only half of the transport was killed on that same day and the other half the next day. The killing activities began at 7 a.m. and stopped at 4 p.m. The Jews transported to Chełmno undressed in a shack which bore the inscription *Durchgangslager* (transit camp), men and women separately. Then they climbed into a "*Spezialwagen*." They were told that they had to take a bath, and soap was also given to them. How the SS could have hoped that the victims would confuse the back of a truck with a shower system remains a mystery. Then the doors were closed (*ibid.*, pp. 70f.):

> *"Before starting the engine, the exhaust pipe was secured to the pipe that went to the engine* [sic]. *I noticed that the exhaust pipe went through the floor to the center of the vehicle, so that, after the engine started, the exhaust gases went inside the vehicle poisoning those present."*

Here we have instead the description of Walter Piller (Krakowski 1983, p. 141):

> *"During the trip the driver Laabs opened a valve through which streamed the gas that killed the occupants in 2-3 minutes."*

Therefore, for Bruno Israel the gas was injected before the departure of the vehicle using two tubes; according to W. Piller, on the other hand, the gassing was carried out while the vehicle was moving by activating a "valve," which brings us back to the fanciful claims of "Szlamek."

But back to Israel's story. According to this, after a few minutes the "special vehicle" moved off in the direction of the furnaces. On arriving in front of them, it stopped, the doors were opened, and the corpses were thrown into the furnaces. The bodies burned "quickly" (*szybko*), which is nonsense (see Section 9.2.).

About the crematoria, Bruno Israel declared (Bednarz 1946a, p. 71):

> *"The shorter tracks formed the grid, but the longer ones were used to mask the crematoria* [making them invisible] *to aviators."*

But he added (*ibid.*, p. 73):

> *"Rags, paper and photographs were burned in a pit dug at the end of the park. They were burning day and night."*

This pit was clearly visible from an aircraft, but why then were the furnaces camouflaged?

Bruno Israel furthermore stated (*ibid.*, p. 72):

> *"In December 1944, the liquidation of the camp began. The crematoria were demolished. The bricks were taken away. I do not know exactly where. A special commission arrived that monitored whether the works were carried out accurately. It was noted that the reinforced concrete of one of the furnaces had remained in the pit; it was ordered to be brought away. Currently there is no trace of the furnaces."*

But the book itself which contains Bruno Israel's deposition has two photographs of the alleged ruins of a crematorium that belie this assertion (*ibid.*, pp. 8f.; see Documents 7 & 8).

Two other testimonies of former SS men will be discussed in Section 9.3.

7.2. The Inmates

The only self-styled survivors of Chełmno who have testified regarding its alleged exterminating activities in 1944 are Mordechai or Mordka or Mieczysław Żurawski, Shimon Srebrnik and Michał or Mordka Podchlebnik. At the 65th hearing of the Eichmann trial in Jerusalem, which was held 5 June 1961, the prosecutor, referring to these three people, said (State of Israel 1993, p. 1194):

> *"There are no other survivors of the extermination camp at Chełmno."*

This is also confirmed by Krakowski, who writes (1983, p. 145):

> *"Mordechai Żurawski, along with Michel Podchlebnik and Shimon Srebrnik, was one of three survivors of Kulmhof."*

7.2.1. Mordechai or Mordka or Mieczysław Żurawski

Żurawski was questioned by Judge Bednarz on 31 July 1945. In addition, on 5 June 1961 he was also heard as a witness for the prosecution at the 65th hearing of the Eichmann trial in Jerusalem.

Before Judge Bednarz he testified that in 1944 he was in the Łódź ghetto and worked at Radogoszcz Station, from where Jewish transports of 700-1,000 persons left for an unknown destination. In one of these transports he himself was deported (Bednarz 1946a, p. 61):

> *"On 10 May 1944 I went with the seventh transport"*

During the Eichmann trial the witness said instead (State…, p. 1194):

> *"Judge Halevi: You arrived at Chełmno in 1944?*
> *Witness Zurawski: In 1944, approximately in July."*

From the Łódź ghetto the transport was sent by rail to Koło and from there by a narrow-gauge railway to Chełmno. Upon arrival, six men were selected, including the witness, who was sent to the "*Waldkommando*" (forest team) to collect wood from another forest for the "cremation furnaces." Then he was assigned to a crematorium and was allegedly able to observe from a distance of 200 meters how the extermination of the Jews took place.

With regard to the transports, Żurawski said (Bednarz 1946a, p. 63):

> *"10 transports came to Chełmno in 1944. These transports contained from 700 to 1,000 persons. When a transport arrived with 700 people, it was completed using small transports by truck, so that a total of 10,000 people were killed at Chełmno. Heffele* [Häfele] *spoke of this."*

At the Eichmann trial the witness stated as follows (State…, p. 1193):

> *"While I was there, three transports of one thousand persons each came. Before that, some seven thousand persons had arrived. I heard this from the people who were there before me. All these persons were burned."*

The name *Zorawski Mordka* indeed appears in the seventh evacuation listing for the Łódź ghetto, which is dated 7 July 1944.[55] But that does not necessarily mean that the transport in question was actually sent to Chełmno, much less that the deportees were exterminated there. Indeed, as we shall see in Chapter 13, the story of the 10 aforementioned transports being sent to and exterminated at Chełmno is not only unsupported by documentary evidence, but it is unreasonable and contrary to the National Socialist policy of conserving Jewish labor.

Żurawski also provides a detailed description of the crematoria, which was then taken up by the Judge Bednarz (see Section 9.1.). In that regard, the witness pointed out (Bednarz 1946a, p. 63):

> *"In one layer (the lowest) you have 12 people. On the corpses were placed more pieces of firewood and then a*[nother] *layer of corpses. In this way, the pyre could hold 100 corpses at a time. As the bodies burned, space was created at the top that was filled with successive layers of wood and corpses. The corpses burned quickly. After about 15 minutes they were already burned."*

In Section 9.2. I will show that these claims are unsustainable. I will return to this witness in Subsection 7.2.4. in order to complete the picture of Żurawski's reliability.

7.2.2. Shimon Srebrnik

Srebrnik was interrogated by Judge Bednarz on 29 June 1945 at Koło. He stated that he had been arrested and sent to Chełmno in March 1944 (Srebrnik 1945):

> *"Up to March 1944 I had been in the Łódź ghetto, from where I was then driven off to Chełmno. In Łódź I worked in the ghetto in the so-called metal department. In March 1944, the Germans organized a round-up. They caught me while I was on a streetcar and led me to Balucki Square where there were some cars from Chełmno."*

But during the 66th day of the Eichmann trial (6 June 1961) he claimed to have been captured in the summer of 1943 in the Łódź ghetto and that he was brought to Chełmno, at the age of thirteen years (State…, pp. 1197f.):

> *"Q. In the summer of 1943, you were in the Łódź Ghetto?*
> *A. Yes.* […]

55 "*Zur Arbeit aus Litzmannstadt-Getto am 7.7.1944 ausgereist*." APL, PSZ, 1309, p. 80.

> *Presiding Judge: How old were you at the time?*
> *Witness Srebrnik: Thirteen.* […]
> *Judge Halevi: On what date did you reach Chełmno?*
> *Witness Srebrnik: In 1943, close to the year 1944."*

It is unclear why the attorney general asked the witness the specific question about the summer of 1943, if this was not the date of his deportation; if it was only the date of his capture, it is not clear where the witness was from the summer of 1943 to the end of that year. What is certain is that there was at that time no one in Chełmno, as the camp was not in operation during that time. Indeed, Rückerl writes about this (1979, p. 283):

> *"In April 1944 Bothmann, with some ex-members of his Sonderkommando, left the SS 'Prince Eugene' division and returned to Chełmno."*

Hans Bothmann, SS *Hauptsturmführer* and *Kriminalkommissar* (police detective), was commander of the Chełmno camp starting in March 1942 as Herbert Lange's successor.

The witness claimed instead that the first Jewish transport had come to Chełmno two or three months after his arrival, namely in February-March 1944 (State…, p. 1198):

> *"Attorney General: When did transports of Jews reach Chełmno, after your arrival?*
> *Witness Srebrnik: About three months after my arrival. Perhaps it was two months after, I don't remember exactly.*
> *Q. What did you do during those two or three months?*
> *A. We put up huts, we put up tents, there was work in the Waldkommando and in preparing the crematorium."*

He pointed out that these first transports came "from Łódź"! So the witness's story is entirely invented. On the other hand, how can you seriously believe that a child of thirteen years was first assigned to the *Waldkommando*, then the *Hauskommando* (internal team) and survived for at least 13 months in the "death camp"? Judge Raveh also had some doubts, since he asked the witness (*ibid.*, p. 1201):

> *"Judge Raveh: You said you were thirteen years of age. When were you thirteen? When you came to Chełmno?*
> *Witness Srebrnik: When I came to Chełmno."*

The presiding judge of the court also expressed some doubt, primarily about Bothmann's rank (*ibid.*, p. 1199):

"[Witness Srebrnik:] *Obersturmbannfuehrer Hans Bothmann, he did it on the Sabbath...*
Presiding Judge: Obersturmbannfuehrer [Lieutenant Colonel] *or Obersturmführer* [First Lieutenant]*?*
Witness Srebrnik: Obersturmbannfuehrer.
Presiding Judge: That is a very high rank.
Attorney General: Are you sure of his rank?
Witness Srebrnik: I once heard him speaking on the telephone, and he answered 'Obersturmbannfuehrer.'
Q. Is that how you know?
A. Yes.
Q. Actually, he was of a much lower rank, as far as is known to us. Please continue."

Bothmann was in fact an SS *Hauptsturmführer* (Captain). But another more-important point of this silly lie puzzled the presiding judge: the number of victims. The public prosecutor asked the witness how many people were taken to Chełmno for extermination from the start of the transports, and he replied (*ibid.*):

"About 1,000-1,200.
Q. Every day?
A. Yes."

Judge Raveh then asked the witness (*ibid.*, p. 1201):

"I understood that there were exterminations for about nine months while you were there?
A. Yes, but I don't remember exactly.
Q. You said that you arrived there at the beginning of 1944, and that you left at the beginning of 1945, and that they had ceased the extermination three months before that. According to this, I make it nine months. Is my calculation correct?
A. Correct."

Accepting the correctness of this calculation, the witness denied he had said shortly before that the gassing had begun two or three months after his arrival in Chełmno, that is, as we have already seen, in February-March 1944, so that the total would be reduced to six or seven months.

Subsequently, the presiding judge returned to the question (*ibid.*):

"Did they put 1,200 people to death every single day?
Witness Srebrnik: That was more or less every day. Sometimes they would have a break of one day, in order to grind the bones.

> *Q. From this it follows that they exterminated many tens of thousands there?*
> *A. Yes, they exterminated many.*
> *Q. One of the witnesses who preceded you gave much lower figures. Are you sure of your facts?*
> *A. Yes.*
> *Presiding Judge: Thank you, Mr. Srebrnik, you have concluded your testimony."*

The reference was to the witness Żurawski, who had spoken of 10,000 victims in total. Instead, according to the statements of Srebrnik, in the alleged nine months' activities of the camp the number of victims would have been (9×30×1200=) 324,000!

Obviously, the presiding judge dropped any further inquiries; otherwise he would have had to accept the inevitable conclusion that the witness was a base impostor.

In contradiction to the above exorbitant death toll, however, Srebrnik had stated in 1945 (Srebrnik 1945):

> *"Transports arrived in Chełmno every second day. Each transport carried from 700 to 1,000 people. I estimate that in 1944 alone 15,000 Jews were brought to Chełmno. However, I did not count them – my assumption is based on what the policemen had said before the transports arrived. That is why I claimed that in 1944 15,000 Jews were killed in Chełmno."*

The difference between 324,000 and 15,000 is not irrelevant.

In an undated Deposition No. 102 made immediately after the war before the Central Commission for Jewish History the witness, who then called himself Szymon Srebrny, claimed (Blumental 1946, p. 244):

> *"The whole time of my stay in the 'death factory' I worked cutting trees, with my legs shackled with chains to the belt so that I could not escape. I* [also] *had to extract gold teeth or crowns from the jaws of the murdered people with pliers; I had to remove rings from their hands; I arranged the piles of logs and corpses; I was present at the burning of the bodies; and I broke up the human bones with a hatchet."*

It is very unlikely that the SS entrusted to a thirteen-year-old tasks such as extraction of gold teeth, the arrangement of bodies in the pyres and crushing bone residue, and in fact at the Eichmann trial the witness did not dare to repeat such statements. In fact, already during his deposition in front of Judge Bednarz of June 1945 Srebrnik did not claim that he

had been assigned to the *Waldkommando*, but to the *Hauskommando* (Srebrnik 1945).

At the end of this interrogation Srebrnik demonstrated that he is a false witness. In fact, he "recognized" the vehicle parked on the grounds of the Ostrowski Company as the "gas van" he claims to have seen. (*ibid.*):

> *"The Jews' clothes were stored in the other barracks in the woods. They had to be carried to the barracks rapidly before another truck arrived. (Here, the witness was shown a photo of a van found in the Ostrowski factory in Koło). This is the van used in Chełmno for gassing. This is the vehicle I mentioned in my testimony with the word 'Otto' on its door."*

But as we have seen earlier, the Central Commission of Inquiry into German Crimes in Poland, which had inspected this vehicle, had established that this was *not* a "gas van."

The witness lies also regarding the cremation facilities (see Chapter 9).

7.2.3. Michał or Mordka Podchlebnik

This witness appeared at the 65th day of the Eichmann trial in Jerusalem on 5 June 1961 under the name Michael Podchlewnik. He claimed he was arrested by German police and taken along with thirty people to Chełmno in 1941 (State… 1993, p. 1189). After a couple of days he was sent to work in the woods (*ibid.*, p. 1191):

> *"In the forest, the pits were being dug. There were twenty-five men, and all were digging pits. We went out at half past six in the morning in winter; this was two days before the New Year, at the end of 1941."*

The witness is said to have arrived in Chełmno on 27 December 1941. He told the film director Claude Lanzmann that he was captured "at the end of 1941, two days before New Year," that is 29 December, and the next morning, 30 December, was brought to Chełmno (Lanzmann 1985, p. 93). In a statement immediately after the war to a commission of the Jewish Historical Institute he claimed instead that he was taken to Chełmno on 3 January 1942 along with 40 people (Blumental 1946, pp. 239f.). Then he was sent to work in the woods, where he was used for the excavation of mass graves measuring 6 m × 8 m. While he was at work, he saw the trucks ("gas vans") which brought about 80 corpses, which were buried in mass graves (*ibid.*, p. 240).

During his interrogation by Judge Bednarz on 9 June 1945, Podchlebnik confirmed having arrived at Chełmno "in early January of 1942" and to have witnessed the unloading of various trucks. Here's how he described the corpses (Bednarz 1946a, pp. 42f.):

> *"The external appearance of the corpses was normal. I did not notice that the corpses had their tongues out; rather their teeth were gritted in an unnatural way. The bodies were still warm. I did not notice any characteristic smell of gas."*

As we have seen above, "Szlamek's" report also said that the color of the corpses was normal, which is impossible for a carbon-monoxide poisoning carried out under the conditions claimed. The absence of any smell is rather contrary to that report, in which we read (see Section 6.3.):

> *"Immediately we were struck by a deep and pungent smell of gas.* […] *A strong smell of gas came out."*

The witness also provided a detailed description of the mass graves and of the way the corpses were buried (*ibid.*, p. 43):

> *"The corpses were placed in such a way that they lay alternately with the head next to the legs of the next corpse. The corpses were bunched tightly face down. The bodies had not been stripped of their clothes. Each grave was six meters deep and about 6-7 meters wide (above). In the lowest layer the bodies of four or five people were laid, in the final top layer were placed up to 30 bodies. The corpses were covered with a layer of sand about a meter thick. I saw several times that at night, the sand was displaced and that, here and there, bodies surfaced which had been buried the day before. Apparently then, the site was not guarded at night. When we worked, the length of the excavation could have been fifteen meters. In the course of a day some 1,000 people were buried. This quantity of corpses occupied 4-5 meters of excavation."*

As in "Szlamek's" report, Podchlebnik also speaks of a grave with the regular section of an inverted trapezoid, but with different dimensions: height 6 meters (instead of 5), the longer leg 6-7 meters (instead of 5) and smaller leg about 1.20 meters.[56] In his statement to the Jewish Historical Institute he mentioned instead a depth of 8 meters and a width of 6 meters.

[56] This measure is derived as follows: 30 corpses are claimed for the larger base of up to 7 m, which equals 1.20 m for the five corpses claimed for the smaller base.

In practice, the pit(s) would have had the cross section of a large funnel, with steeply sloping walls, and it would have been very difficult to dig them manually, especially in winter with the ground frozen: Five meters in length of such a trench would have corresponded to 120 cubic meters of soil. But above all, it would have had no advantage over a normal rectangular pit, which would have been even easier to dig and would have held more.

At the Eichmann trial, the witness expounded in the following way the extraordinary story of his escape (State… 1993, p. 1191):

> *"Then there was New Year, and we did not work on those days. We started to think, some of my companions and I, how to get away from there. Anyhow, we could not stand it any longer. We thought we must try – either we would succeed in escaping or not. On the first day after the holiday, we went to work, after New Year."*

That was precisely the day of the escape, 2 January 1942. The witness stated that he stayed at Chełmno for 10 days (*ibid.*, p. 44: "I have worked at Chełmno for ten days"), but this cannot be reconciled with the dating of his arrival at the camp which he gave at the Eichmann trial: 27 December 1941. In this case his stay at Chełmno would have been a mere six days. Not to mention that in his statement to the Jewish Historical Institute Podchlebnik said he had arrived at the camp only on 3 January 1942, so he would have arrived at Chełmno on the day after his escape!

And after his escape, instead of alerting the local Jewish community and preparing a report on the alleged extermination camp, Podchlebnik remained totally silent for more than three years and spoke out only in June 1945. Yet his testimony does nothing but to repeat propaganda themes which were essentially taken from "Szlamek's" report, and hence it is equally implausible.

7.2.4. How Many and What Kind(s) of "Gas Vans" Operated in 1944?

Regarding the basic question of the number and type(s) of "special vehicles" allegedly used in 1944, the essential evidence is contradictory. Witness Podchlebnik said (Bednarz 1946a, p. 43):

> *"The truck in which the people were poisoned by gas held 80-90 people at a time. During my stay in Chełmno two trucks were used*

> *simultaneously. There was also a third larger truck, which was defunct and was at Chełmno in the yard (I saw a wheel removed).”*

Witness Żurawski stated the following (*ibid.*, p. 62):

> *“They were operating two trucks: a larger one, which could hold about 130 people, and another smaller one, which could hold 80-90.”*

The defendant Bruno Israel finally said (*ibid.*, p. 72):

> *“There were two death trucks at Chełmno. During the time I was at Chełmno essentially* [zasadniczo] *a single truck was used. The second, smaller one with a capacity of 80 people was a spare vehicle at Chełmno. These two trucks were sent to Berlin.”*

According to the defendant, a third disinfestation truck existed besides these two, which “had the wheels removed” (*ibid.*).

It is important to note that these three people were in Chełmno during the same period.

According to Podchlebnik, two small “special vehicles” were operating, while a third, larger one, was inoperable. Żurawski said two trucks were in operation, a large and a small one. Finally, according to B. Israel, a single small truck was in operation, while another large truck was inoperable, whereas the third truck was a disinfestation vehicle. It is interesting to note that according to Podchlebnik the third “special vehicle” was missing a wheel and that according to B. Israel the third vehicle, which was used for disinfestation, had all wheels missing. Now, in the first photograph of the vehicle that was in the courtyard of the former Ostrowski Company, the left front wheel is seen to be missing indeed, while in the second picture it can be discerned that all four wheels are missing (which were removed by the Poles). It is therefore clear that Podchlebnik and B. Israel, to whom these photographs were shown during Judge Bednarz’s investigation, identified the Ostrowski vehicle with the third “special vehicle,” the other with a disinfestation vehicle.

7.2.5. The “Testament” of the Last Prisoners of Chełmno

This title is given a 17-page booklet originally written in Polish and translated into Russian by a certain Soviet individual named Eiseman, an interpreter of the 7th Section of the Central Political Bureau of the 1st Byelorussian Front. Apparently the original is missing. The Polish text by Krakowski (Krakowski 1996, pp. 45-57) is a retranslation from

Russian. Together with Ilya Altman, Krakowski has also edited an English translation. The booklet is a collection of writings by some of the last 47 prisoners at Chełmno, including Żurawski and Srebrnik, who have both authored short notes. In the introduction to the publication mentioned above, Krakowski and Altman provide valuable material for judging the value of this journal. With reference to these two witnesses they write (Krakowski/Altman 1991, pp. 107f.):

> *"In July 1945 both testified before the Commission chaired by the Polish Judge Władysław Bednarz, who was investigating German crimes at Chełmno. Subsequently they testified at the Eichmann trial in Jerusalem. For some reason they do not mention the document written shortly before the killing of Chełmno's last forced laborers."*

The final date of the diary is in fact 9 January 1945! This is just the first puzzle. Krakowski and Altman list others (*ibid.*, p. 108):

> *"The circumstances surrounding the composition of this document under the harsh regime of the camp remain a mystery. It is impossible to explain how its authors had found pieces of paper, a pencil and a place and time to quickly write their messages. We do not even know the identity of the persons who found the document and handed it over to a Soviet soldier who later passed it on to the headquarters of the First Belarusian Front. There it was translated into Russian with a preface of the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee in Moscow."*

Logically, the people who must have delivered the booklet to the Russian soldier can only have been the allegedly only two survivors of that group of 47 prisoners, that is Żurawski and Srebrnik. But if that is so, why then did they not mention it during their interrogation by Judge Bednarz?

Apart from a list of garbled names of SS men allegedly present at Chełmno,[57] the booklet superficially deals with the ostensible extermination, digressing largely into personal matters. The first item recorded refers to a group of Jews from Łódź being sent to Chełmno on 15 September 1944. Next follows a description of the alleged extermination process (Krakowski/Altman 1991, pp. 110f.). But according to orthodox Holocaust historiography, the last convoy of Jews gassed at the camp allegedly arrived there on 14 July.

[57] Out of 28 names listed, 22 are garbled; see Krakowski 1996, pp. 55-57.

Then the book speaks of prisoners "belonging to the so-called '*Waldkommando*'" who "went into the forest to gather firewood for the furnaces where people were burned" (*ibid.*, p. 112). But who could be cremated after 15 September 1944?

Another gassing is said to have occurred on 31 August (*ibid.*, p. 113), and yet another "in August 1944" (*ibid.*, p. 120). From the few lines written by "Sewek Srebnik," but signed by "Srebnik Shmuel, Srebnik Sewek," presumably Shimon Srebrnik, we gather only that the author worked at Chełmno "as a shoemaker" (*ibid.*, p. 117). The record made by "Żurawski Mordke," that is Mordka Żurawski, says among other things (*ibid.*, p. 119):

> *"In July 1944 I was sent to 'Leipzig and Munich,' along with 7,000 people. I was picked out by the camp commander, and that day I worked there. All the* [other] *people of this transport who had left with me were wiped out."*

The dispatch of transports to "Leipzig and Munich" (allegedly a "camouflage" for Chełmno)[58] was never mentioned by the witness in his statements afterward, and this also applies to the "testament." On the other hand, of the 65,000 Jews who were in the Łódź ghetto in early August 1944, some 22,500 were deported to Auschwitz and the remaining 42,500 to labor camps in Germany (see Chapter 10). Hence the destination "Leipzig and Munich" is perfectly consistent for one or more of the 10 transports "for labor" (*zur Arbeit*), with which the about 7,000 Jews mentioned above were deported from the ghetto.

Krakowski and Altman say (*ibid.*, p. 107) that many of the 47 final prisoners at Chełmno

> *"were transferred from the Łódź ghetto during the months of May-June 1944. Consequently, they witnessed the entire process of mass murder of the Jews from the Łódź ghetto in gas vans during the period between 23 June and 14 July,"*

that is, the Jews of the 10 transports mentioned above. Apparently the "Testament" was written just to give credibility to this story. If the 10 transports had gone to labor camps in Germany, how could they hope to make the world believe in the almost total extermination at Auschwitz of the Jews from the ghetto of Łódź? Given this, the surprising fact is readily understandable that none of the notes, allegedly written by at least 12 different Jews, had been written in Yiddish.

[58] About the destination of Munich see Chapter 13.

8. The Cremation of the Bodies of the Alleged Victims

8.1. The Purpose of Cremation

As to the timing of the first cremation activity at Chełmno, orthodox Holocaust historiography presents two opposing and irreconcilable scenarios. One is essentially linked to the so-called "*Aktion* 1005," allegedly carried out by SS *Standartenführer* Paul Blobel on the orders of Gestapo chief Heinrich Müller. Concerning this Hilberg writes (1995, p. 392):

> *"In June 1942* [Himmler] *gave the order to SS Standartenführer Paul Blobel, head of Sonderkommando 4a, to 'destroy the traces of the Einsatzgruppen's executions in the east.' In this regard Blobel formed a special task force with the code name '1005,' which had the task to excavate the graves and burn the corpses."*

The link with Chełmno would consist in the following fact (*ibid.*, p. 1039; see next chapter):

> *"Hence Blobel and his 'Kommando 1005' went to Kulmhof in order to see there what could be done with the graves located there. He built numerous pyres and primitive furnaces and even used explosives."*

According to this interpretation, the first cremation at Chełmno resulted from the desire of the SS to remove the traces of their crime. Krakowski presents it as follows (2007, p. 119):

> *"Meanwhile the Germans in the camp focused primarily on the destruction of the traces of their murders, cremated the bodies and scattered the ashes of the murdered. These activities were directed by Paul Blobel, the commander of 'Aktion 1005,' who had specialized in eliminating the traces at massacre sites. Blobel chose Łódź as the seat of his office so that it would be as close as possible to the operations center, the Chełmno camp."*

Judge Bednarz knew nothing of all this. In his investigation, he simply established that the two crematoria were constructed in the spring of 1942. He explained in 1946 that the cremation of corpses began in the

summer of 1942 as a result of an outbreak of typhus caused by the fumes of the corpses (see Section 9.1.).

In this regard the verdict of the Bonn Jury Court pointed out (Rüter *et al.* 1979, p. 279f.):

> *"In summer 1942 a strong smell of decomposition became noticeable coming from the mass graves in the forest. It grew increasingly strong and covered the entire area. The corpse gases penetrated the covering soil, which was merely half a meter thick and planted with broom for camouflage reasons. Thereupon an incineration furnace was erected which consisted of a pit of a circumference of 4 × 4 m and a depth of 2 m, several iron railway tracks as a grate and an air duct cut horizontally into the soil."*

This interpretation attributes the beginning of cremation at Chełmno to sanitary needs, so that there is no place in this version for Blobel and his *Aktion* 1005. Indeed, in this perspective, Blobel's mission at Chełmno becomes pointless.

Jens Hoffmann tries to reconcile the two contradictory arguments by writing (2008, p. 11; also p. 81):

> *"During the summer of 1942 Blobel was frequently busy in the Chełmno 'Waldlager' in order to test procedures for the cremation of corpses. Even the local camp staff was interested in Blobel's experiments, who had learned something about flamethrowers and incendiary bombs already in World War I as an army engineer.*[59] *Due to the summer heat, the bodies of victims buried in mass graves had become a hygiene problem. The murderers were concerned about the quality of groundwater, some of them considered aesthetically unacceptable odors and liquids that escaped from the graves."*

8.2. The Alleged Mission of Blobel at Chełmno[60]

Hilberg writes (1995, pp. 1039f.):

> *"In 1942 the corpses were buried in mass graves at Kulmhof, in the camps of the General Government and in Birkenau.* [...] *Considerations of the same kind led the head of the Gestapo, Müller, to instruct Standartenführer Blobel, commander of Einsatzkommando 4a,*

59 But that training did not turn Blobel into an expert on corpse cremation.
60 This chapter briefly summarizes what I have documented elsewhere (Mattogno 2008).

> *to destroy the graves in the occupied territories in the east. Hence Blobel and his 'Kommando 1005' went to Kulmhof in order to see what could be done with the graves located there. He built numerous pyres and primitive furnaces and even used explosives. In addition to these techniques, Kulmhof had a special device – a bone mill (Knochenmühle). On 16 July 1942 the deputy chief of Gettoverwaltung* [administration of the ghetto], *Ribbe, sent a letter to the 'Jewish elder' Rumkowski asking him to look for a mill in the Łódź ghetto, 'hand-cranked or electric.' He added in no uncertain terms: 'The Sonderkommando of Kulmhof is interested in this machine.' The ghetto evidently did not have such a mill, since a few months later Biebow sent a requisition to the Gestapo in Łódź regarding the purchase of a bone crusher from the Company Schriever & Co. in Hamburg. Biebow asked the Gestapo to keep the purchase documents. 'For some reason' he did not want to keep them. When Höss, the commandant of Auschwitz, visited Kulmhof, Blobel promised that he would send a mill 'for substances.' But Höss preferred that the remains of the bones be destroyed with hammers."*

But if two properly operating crematoria had already been built at Chełmno for sanitary reasons (see Section 9.1.), what would have been the point of Blobel's experimental cremations? And what sense was there in assigning them specifically to him?

The problem of mass cremation for sanitary reasons due to epidemics or battles had been discussed by German specialists since 1875, when Friedrich Küchenmeister wrote about a project by Friedrich Siemens (the creator of the first hot-air crematorium) conducted at his specific request regarding a mass cremation installation for the corpses of soldiers fallen on the battlefield. The project was called "*Feldofen Leichenverbrennung System für Friedrich Siemens*" (Field incinerator for Cremation of Corpses, Friedrich Siemens System; Küchenmeister 1875, pp. 82f.).

By the end of the nineteenth century several scientific works on cremation contained discussions on mass-cremation furnaces for corpses from contagious diseases and casualties of war.[61] In November 1901, during a convention of the Chamber of Physicians for the Prussian province of Brandenburg, Dr. Weyl proposed cremating the victims of a typhus epidemic that was raging in the region. He turned to engineer Hans Kori (a future competitor of the Topf company for the supply of

61 One of the first was Pini 1885, pp. 151-157.

crematoria to concentration camps), who, on 10 February 1902, proposed "the construction of temporary or portable furnaces" which could be assembled in 36 hours.[62]

The First World War rekindled the interest of German specialists to the extent that an apparatus for mass cremation was even patented.[63] The oft-cited patent application for a "continuously operating cremation furnace for mass use" (*Kontinuierlich arbeitender Leichen-Verbrennungsofen für Massenbetrieb*) which Topf chief engineer Fritz Sander filed on 26 October 1942 and then revised on 4 November 1942 arose from that tradition of research into mass cremations.

The engineer Kurt Prüfer, of the Topf & Sons Company of Erfurt, at that time supervisor of the construction of the crematoria at Auschwitz-Birkenau, was one of Germany's leading experts on cremation. So why then would Gestapo Chief Müller have assigned a layman like Blobel to carry out experiments in the field of cremation without even consulting a specialist like Prüfer or Sander?

The only certain fact is that the alleged activity of Blobel at Chełmno is not confirmed by any document, but only by a single testimony, that of Rudolf Höss, the commandant of Auschwitz, which was then "confirmed," long after the fact, by one of the architects of the Auschwitz crematoria, Walter Dejaco.

8.3. Höss's Visit to the *Aktion* Reinhardt Field incinerators

On 17 September 1942 SS *Untersturmführer* Walter Dejaco wrote the following "Report on the Mission to Łódź" (*Reisebericht über die Dienstfahrt nach Litzmannstadt*):[64]

> *"Purpose of Journey: Inspection of a special installation*
> *Departure from Auschwitz was on 16 Sept. 1942 at 5 a.m. by car of the headquarters of Auschwitz concentration camp.*

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[62] *An den Deutschen Reichstag. Eingabe vom 20.Februar 1902 wegen Verbrennung von Pestleichen*, Attachment II.

[63] Deutsches Reich. Reichspatentamt. Patent no. 331628; class 24d. Issued on 11 January 1921. Adolf Marsch in Gera, Reuss. "*Schachtofen zur gleichzeitigen Einäscherung einer grösseren Anzahl von Menschenleichen oder Tierkadavern.*" German patent valid as of 30 September 1915.

[64] RGVA, 502-1-336, p. 69; see Document 9.

Participants: SS Obersturmbannführer Höss, SS Untersturmführer Hössler and SS Untersturmführer Dejaco.

Arrival at Łódź at 9 am. A visit to the ghetto took place, followed by a trip to the special installation. Inspection of the special installation and discussion with SS Standartenführer Blobel about the design of such an installation. The construction material ordered by special directive Staf. Blobel from the company Ostdeutsche Baustoffwerke, Posen [Poznan], *Wilhelm Gustloffstr., are to be delivered immediately to Auschwitz concentration camp. The order results from the attached letter of the W.V.H.,*[65] *and the request and allocation of the ordered materials is to be effected immediately by the local Central Construction Office in agreement with Ostuf. Weber of Office C V/3. The required number of waybills is to be sent to the above company.*

With reference to the discussion of SS Staf. Blobel with the company Schriever & Co., Hannover, Bürgermeister Finkstr., the reserved ball mill for substances which has already been reserved is to be delivered to the Auschwitz concentration camp.

Return on 17 Sept. [19]*42, arrival at Auschwitz at 12 o'clock.*

Dejaco

SS Ustuf. (F)

Attachments:

1 carbon copy

1 sketch."

The two enclosures are missing, and we know nothing of such a "special installation" at Auschwitz.

And here is the text of the relevant *Fahrgenehmigung* (travel permit) of the vehicle for the trip to Łódź:[66]

"Copy.

Radio message no. 52

Arrived: 15 Sept. [19]*42 1744*

Sender: To

W.V.H.A Auschwitz concentration camp

Re.: travel permit

Reference: Local application of 14 Sept. [19]*42*

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[65] *WVHA, Wirtschafts-Verwaltungs-Hauptamt,* the economic and administrative main department of the SS.

[66] AGK, NTN, 94, p. 170; see Document 10.

> *Travel permit for passenger car from Au. to Litzmannstadt* [Łódź] *and back for inspecting the experimental station for field incinerators Aktion Reinhardt is granted herewith for 16 Sept.* [19]*42.*
> *The travel permit is to be given to the driver.*
> *The Head of Office Group D*
> *sgnd. Glücks SS Brigadef. & Major General of the Waffen SS, Head of the Office in the rank of a Lieutenant General of the Waffen SS.*
> *Certified correct*
> *sgnd. Selle*
> *Radio station supervisor*
> *Certified true copy*
> *Mulka*
> *SS Hauptsturmführer and Adjutant"*

8.4. Did Höss Visit the Chełmno Camp?

No document exists certifying that the "special installation" was in Chełmno; this is based only on Höss's notes (Broszat 1981, pp. 161f.):

> *"I drove with Hössler to Culmhof for an inspection. Blobel had ordered several improvised furnaces to be built, and he incinerated with wood and petroleum refinery byproducts.*[67] *He also tried to destroy the corpses with explosives, but this succeeded only very incompletely. After having been pulverized in a bone mill* [Knochenmühle]*, the ashes were scattered in the expansive forest area."*

As I have noted elsewhere (Mattogno 2004c, pp. 17-25), the general context in which the Auschwitz commandant makes this claim is demonstrably false. This also applies to the specific point at issue, about which Höss made contradictory statements. He said in fact (Broszat 1981, p. 162):

> *"During the visit at Kulmhof I also saw the extermination installations with the trucks, which were adapted for killing with engine-exhaust gases. However, the local commander did not consider this method as reliable, because the gas is formed in a very irregular fashion and often did not suffice at all to kill."*

In contrast to this, Höss said elsewhere (*ibid.*, p. 170):

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[67] In German: "*Benzinrückständen*," *e.g.* kerosene and naphtha.

> *"I personally have seen only Culmhof and Treblinka. Culmhof was no longer in operation."*

But if Höss had visited Chełmno on 16 September 1942, the camp was still in operation; if, however, it "was no longer in operation," the visit would have taken place after 7 April 1943 (see Section 12.4.).

On the other hand, the travel permit mentioned above refers to a journey to Łódź and back. Dejaco's report says that the Auschwitz SS came to Litzmannstadt (Łódź) and visited the local ghetto before the "trip to the special installation," where they had a "discussion with SS *Standartenführer* Blobel": if this was at Chełmno, why did the SS stop at Łódź and visit the ghetto first? And why does the travel permit not mention the alleged destination of "Kulmhof and back"? Chełmno is in fact about 60 km northwest of Łódź. Moreover, as reported by Gerald Reitlinger (1965, p. 170),

> *"during his interrogation in Nuremberg, Blobel described the site with great delicacy as 'an abandoned Jewish cemetery near Łódź,'"*

confirming that Höss did not visit the Chełmno camp on 16 September 1942, so the "field incinerators *Aktion* Reinhardt," whatever their function may have been, were not located in or near this camp.

Orthodox Holocaust historiography assumes the following premisses to be true:

- these "field incinerators" were located at Chełmno;
- they were built by Blobel;
- in June 1942 Gestapo chief Müller had given Blobel the order to remove the mass graves in which the victims of German shootings were buried (Spector 1990);
- Blobel decided to use the same method at Chełmno as well.

Hence one would have to assume that contemporary documents confirm both the claimed mass murders at Chełmno and the reality of the so-called "*Aktion* 1005." But neither of it is true, as I have documented elsewhere (Mattogno 2008).

8.5. "Bone Mill" or "Ball Mill"?

In his famous documentary collection on the Łódź ghetto, Artur Eisenbach published the transcript of the two documents relating to Chełmno offered by Hilberg as evidence of the criminal function of the camp in

connection with Dejaco's report of his trip to Łódź on 17 September 1942 (Eisenbach 1946, p. 279):

"To the
Eldest of the Jews[68]
Litzmannstadt
Ghetto letter no. 10195
027/2/Lu/R 16 July 1942

Re.: Machines in the ghetto

I ask to determine immediately whether there is a bone mill inside the ghetto, either with engine or hand-cranked.
On behalf of (Fr. W. Ribbe[69]*)*
The special command Kulmhof is interested in this mill."

On the same page Eisenbach also published the transcript of the second document, which does not explicitly mention "bone mill":

"To the
Secret State Police
c/o Mr. Commissar Fuchs
Litzmannstadt
027/1/Bi/Si 1 March 1943

Re.: Purchase for the special command Kulmhof

Attached I send back to you the documents about the purchase from the company Schriever & Co., Hannover. The matter has been concluded in the meantime, but for certain reasons I do not want to keep this file in my administration, and ask it to be taken into storage there.
On behalf of:
Attachment: 1 file
(Biebow[70]*) head of department."*

Ribbe's request of 16 July 1942 for a "bone mill" is recorded only in Eisenbach's transcript, without even an archival reference. No one has ever seen the original document. In addition, Biebow's letter of 1 March 1943 makes explicit reference to Schriever & Co. of Hannover, which is also mentioned in Dejaco's report, but relating to a "ball mill."[71]

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68 "*Ältesten der Juden*," office held by Mordechai Chaim Rumkowski.
69 Friedrich Wilhelm Ribbe, deputy chief of the Łódź ghetto administration.
70 Hans Biebow, chief of the Łódź ghetto administration.
71 A ball mill is a type of grinder usually using steel balls in order to grind solid materials into fine powders.

Hence until proven otherwise – which means as long as the original document is not produced – it is more than legitimate to assume that the "special command Kulmhof" had requested a simple "ball mill," a machine which it subsequently actually received. In support of this a further argument can be made.

The "bone mill" was a machine that was designed to obtain fertilizer from animal bones. A similar machine still exists in Germany as a historical artifact:[72]

> *"Around the year 1837, the milling facility with a pounding de*-vice *for animal bones was built. The resulting bonemeal was used as organic fertilizer for the hardscrabble fields. If the bone particles were still too large after pounding them, they were placed in a drum full of stones that further pulverized them."*

The "bone mill" was normally used in industrial equipment for the processing of animal carcasses.[73] Hence, if the "special command Kulmhof," which certainly was not involved in the production of fertilizers from animal bones, had asked the Jewish Council of the Łódź Ghetto, of all possible addressees, for just such a "bone mill," it would surely have raised serious suspicions.

Finally, the fact that it could also have been hand-cranked (*Handbetrieb*) does not comport with the alleged grinding of bone residues from tens of thousands of corpses (for more see Mattogno 2008, pp. 37-40).

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72 "Knochenmühle in Mühlhofe," in: www.meinerzhagen.de/tourismus/sehenswertes/sehenswuerdigkeiten/knochenmuehle-in-muehlhofe; www.heimatverein-meinerzhagen.de/index.php/67.

73 Heepke 1905, p. 156, drawing of a "*Anlage für Cadaververnichtung*" (facility for carcass elimination) with "*Knochenmühle*" (bone mill).

9. The Chełmno "Crematoria"

9.1. Construction and Operation

Not a single document exists on the alleged Chełmno crematoria; all we know about them is a simple summary of evidence compiled by Judge Bednarz. And even this merely applies to the second phase of the camp, because there were no witnesses to the first phase. In his first report on the camp he wrote (Bednarz 1946d, p. 6):

> *"Until spring 1940* [should be: 1942] *the bodies were buried in huge mass graves, one of which was 270 meters long, 8.10 wide and 6 deep. In the spring of 1942 two furnaces were built. As of this time all corpses were cremated. The corpses already buried earlier were cremated as well. We have no precise data about these furnaces, as the preliminary investigation could not rely on any witness who, in the years 1942 to 1943, had worked in the woods where the bodies were cremated. Witnesses living near the forest saw two chimneys located in a fenced-in area which were smoking all the time. During the first deactivation of the camp the furnaces were blown up by the camp authorities on 7 April 1943."*

In a later report Bednarz remarked (1946a, p. 20):

> *"In summer 1942 the large amount of rotting corpses that had accumulated led to a typhus epidemic. In addition, the odor was so intense as to render the admission of new transports impossible. It was therefore necessary to find means of mitigation. They then began to cremate the bodies. Subsequently the numerical strength of the Waldkommando was increased (testimony of witness Kozanecki, card 82) and new transports ceased to be admitted* [in a note: probably in June and July 1942]. *Two crematoria were built, whose chimneys towered above the forest (deposition of witnesses on Cards 13, 57, 61, 67 and others). However, in order to accelerate the cremation process of the accumulated corpses, timber was transported from the nearby forest of Kościelec, since the wood on site was not enough. Huge pyres were prepared, and the corpses were cremated on them. Working conditions were terrible. When a special commission came from Berlin to check the work status, the police said laughingly that 'die Herren aus Berlin'* [the gentlemen from Berlin]

could not stand the atmosphere and had already passed out after 5 minutes (witness statement by Rozalia Peham, wife of a member of the Sonderkommando, Card 160).

The ashes were dumped in trenches 4 meters deep and 8-10 meters wide. They were then covered with earth. On that site a stand of partly conifers and partly birches was planted. The bones were crushed with wooden pestles on a cement base prepared specifically for this purpose. For a certain time the bones were probably crushed by a machine for grinding (mill). The investigation has ascertained only the fact that this machine, coming from the Zawadka mill, was brought into the area of the Sonderkommando*, and the fact that it was returned after having been disinfected (deposition by witnesses Sokolnicki, Card 143, and Kruszczyński, Card 413).”*

The crematoria of the camp’s second phase, however, are extensively described by several witnesses. Bednarz summed up their statements as follows (1946d, p. 6):

“2 new furnaces were built in 1944, during the period when the camp resumed its activities. Witnesses Żurawski, Srebrnik and the policeman in custody Bruno Israel, who had seen the reconstructed furnaces, described them as follows: the furnaces were built into the ground and did not protrude above ground level. They had the shape of a cone with a base of equal angles and its apex in the ground. At the top the furnace measured 6 × 10 meters and had a height and a depth of 4 meters.[74] *At the bottom, where a grill was located, the furnace measured 1.5 × 2 meters. The grate was made up of railway rails. A channel through which air flowed and which at the same time served to remove the ashes and bones led to the ash compartment. The walls of the furnace were made of refractory bricks and cement. Alternating layers of wood and corpses were placed in the furnace in order to speed up the combustion process. The cremation capacity of the furnace was a hundred corpses at a time. When the bodies fell down* [through the grate] *during the combustion process, more could be added on top of them. Bone ash and debris removed from the ash compartment were placed in a pit after being crushed by a pestle, and then, in 1943, the bones and ashes were taken se-*

[74] According to Szymon Srebrnik, who claims to have seen them, the furnaces “were approximately three metres (10 feet) tall. The width was about the same” (Srebrnik 1945).

cretly at night to the village of Zawadka and were thrown into the river from the bridge."

And here is the description given by Bednarz in his second report on Chełmno (1946b, pp. 22f.):

"According to the investigation's results, the crematorium of 1944 looked like this: It was built in such a way that it did not protrude from the ground. At the top, it had the shape of a rectangle of 10 × 6 meters. The furnace tapered off like a funnel toward the bottom and ended with grates made of railway rails. The hearth had a dimension of 1.5 × 2 m. The furnace was 4 meters deep, the walls were brick covered with a layer of refractory cement. The ash compartment was under the stove, from which a narrow channel had been excavated. Through this channel the ashes were extracted.[75] *They used a custom-built poker in order to pull out the ashes. This work was so hard that the workers who performed it died after a few days (Card 342).* [Note: *After a few days they were so exhausted that they were killed as unfit for work.*] *When the furnaces were not in operation, they were camouflaged for fear of air raids, so that they could not be seen from above. On the furnace's opening, railway rails were placed of some 15 meters in length, and on top of them plates and branches were put (Bruno Israel, Card 394). Alternating layers of corpses and wooden logs were put into the furnace. They were arranged in such a way that they did not touch one another or hinder the airflow to successive body layers. 12 bodies were put in the lower layer. The furnace was ignited through the channel to the ash compartment. The corpses were not moistened with gasoline or other flammable substances. They burned rapidly, more or less within 20 minutes (cards 342, 170). As they burned, the layers of corpses sank toward the* [bottom of the] *pit, which made it possible to add a new load. A furnace contained up to 100 corpses. Thus, a transport carried by the gas-chamber truck was instantly cremated in a furnace."*

The system described by the witnesses (particularly by M. Żurawski) is nothing other than the so-called Feist apparatus, a furnace for burning the carcasses of animals which have died of infectious diseases. It was developed by Veterinarian Georg Feist in the second half of the nineteenth century. A book on cremation from the turn of the century ex-

[75] The witness Srebrnik stated that "there was neither a chimney nor a special trench for better draught." (Srebrnik 1945)

plains its structure and operation with the aid of a drawing (de Cristoforis 1890, pp. 125-128; see Document 11):

> *"This apparatus was originally designed by Dr. Feist for the sole hygienic purpose of destroying the carcasses of animals which had died of infectious diseases, but it is easy to understand that, with appropriate modifications, it could also be used to incinerate human remains in the case of a significant mortality, such as casualties of war or during an epidemic when the number of victims, the lack of time or money does not permit a crematorium to be built, and finally in all the circumstances that Captain Rey saw when he conceived his mobile crematorium.*
>
> *The veterinarian Georg Feist had the idea of using cremation in order to render harmless the animal carcasses affected by a contagion; he was convinced that burial would serve only to create a diffusive hotbed of the contagion in the area where it already raged, a contagion which at the same time was the economic ruin of the country. The idea of Dr. Feist was immediately approved by his veterinary colleague Zündel and by the local authorities. The Strasbourg authorities granted permission to build a special furnace in each of the larger departments affected by the contagion, i.e. Johaness-Rohrbach and Canton Saaralben.*
>
> *The first Feist furnace was built on the principle of the lime kilns situated on a hill just 20 km from the village of Rohrbach. The wind came primarily from the east-south-east; the mouth of the chimney opened in this direction. The vertical space for the carcasses is perfectly round: it is 1.75 m high and has a diameter of 1.60 m at the top and 0.90 m at the bottom at the level of the second grate. In this space at first some straw with dry branches and wood chips is introduced, then coal, to a total thickness of 40-50 cm. Next the carcass is introduced and the spaces between the carcass and the walls are well filled with coal; the space which may remain at the top is filled with more straw and kindling. Finally the whole is doused with 5-10 liters of oil.*
>
> *On top of this a funnel of white sheet metal, 2 mm thick, is located; then the fire is lit with a suitable medium at the lower grate, which is about 65 cm above the ground. Under the furnace there is a trough of sheet metal in which fluids which may seep through due to the heat are absorbed by the ash. The complete combustion takes 5 to 6 hours for small animals and 8 to 9 for bigger ones, which weigh 250*

> *to 500 kg, which amounts to 4-8 corpses of an average weight of 60 kg each. At this time, moreover, everything is reduced completely, leaving an ash residue of 1 to 2.5 kg.*[76]
>
> *The employee responsible for conducting the cremation receives 20 Swiss francs per carcass, but is obliged to provide all the fuel, and thus earns about half the sum. Fuel consumption is about 500-600 kg of coal, 5-10 liters of oil and about 75 hundredweight of straw and firewood."*

In summary, the Feist apparatus had the shape of a truncated inverted cone and a hearth grate of 90 cm in diameter with a surface area of ($\pi\times r^2\approx$) 0.64 square meters; in eight to nine hours it could incinerate animal carcasses weighing some 250 to 500 kg, which is equivalent to four to eight corpses of 60 kg, while consuming about 500 to 600 kg of coal and five to ten liters of gasoline. Assuming average values, this results in 375 kg of organic matter (the equivalent of six corpses) incinerated in 8.5 hours using 550 kg of coal. In 24 hours, therefore, the cremation capacity of the furnace was 1,050 kg of load (the equivalent of 18 corpses) consuming 1,550 kg of coal. This amounts to an average of roughly 1.45 kg of coal per kg of combusted load.

In contrast to this, the Chełmno furnaces are said to have had a rectangular cross section and were allegedly equipped with a grate of 1.5 m × 2 m = 3 m². A system of this kind therefore would have had a combustion capacity (3÷0.6=) 5 times higher, therefore (18 × 5 =) 90 corpses in 24 hours, while consuming (90 corpses × 60 kg/corpse × 1.45 kg coal/kg corpse≈) 7.800 kg of coal.

Żurawski's claim that a layer of 12 corpses burned in 15 minutes[77] is therefore crazy. In such a case, one furnace alone would burn 1,152 corpses in 24 hours, which is absurd. Instead, the theoretical capacity of the two incinerators at Chełmno would have been 180 corpses in 24 hours. But in practice, since the two furnaces were fuelled with green wood according to witnesses, which has a calorific value much lower

[76] The real quantity should rather be 10-25 kg. This is probably a printing error.

[77] See quote on p. 63; W. Piller "confirmed" this absurdity by also asserting that the corpses were cremated within some 15 minutes (Krakowski 2007, p. 144); Srebrnik confirmed no less absurdly: "The capacity of one furnace was more or less the same as one van. […]. It took approximately one hour for the corpses to burn." Since he claimed that the smaller "vans" had a capacity of 100-120 persons, the furnace in turn could allegedly cremate at least this number of corpses within an hour (Srebrnik 1945).

than that of coal,[78] the actual combustion capacity would have been considerably lower.

But even the theoretical maximum capacity of 180 corpses in 24 hours would still have been inadequate for an ostensible extermination camp like Chełmno with its relatively limited influx of victims. This is particularly true for the claimed first phase of camp's activities, which saw many more victims than the claimed second phase.

According to orthodox Holocaust historiography, Blobel began his cremation experiments at Chełmno in June 1942. By mid-September he had developed a cremation system so satisfactory that his "field incinerators" were visited by Rudolf Höss and considered a model for Auschwitz.[79] Hence for the SS authorities their efficiency would have been indisputable. So when these authorities, in the second phase of the camp, are said to have had to reconstruct the two furnaces which had previously been dismantled, they apparently built the same furnace model as developed by Blobel. This is stated explicitly by Konnilyn G. Feig, who writes:[80]

> *"Blobel finally discovered an efficient method of body disposal. He constructed a vast pyre of iron rails and wooden sleepers, built in the form of furnaces. They were laid deep in the ground so they did not project above the surface. The furnaces measured at the top 6 by 10 meters and were 4 meters deep. A channel to the pit below facilitated the removal of ashes and bones."*

But in this case, cremation of the 145,301 alleged victims of 1942[81] would have required (145,301÷180=) about 807 days (2 years and 2½ months)!

Archaeological excavations carried out by the Poles in the late 1980s and early 1990s, however, disproved the report accepted by Judge Bed-

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[78] Coal has a calorific value between 15 MJ/kg (moist lignite) and 34 MJ/kg (anthracite) (3,583 to 8,121 kcal/kg); www.engineeringtoolbox.com/fuels-higher-calorific-values-d_169.html. The values for wood are between 8 MJ/kg (green) and 16 MJ/kg (dry) (1,911 to 3,822 kcal/kg), van Loo/Koppejan 2008, p. 40.

[79] In reality Höss inexplicably is said to have introduced crude "cremation ditches"; see Section 9.4.

[80] Feig 1981, p. 271. The few pages dedicated to the events at Chełmno are utterly inconsistent ("Chełmno/Kulmhof: The Secret Camp," pp. 266-274).

[81] The number of Jews who, according to the Korherr Report, "*wurden durchgeschleust… durch die Lager im Warthegau*" ("were funneled… through the camps in the Warthegau"; NO-5194, p. 9) and who, according to orthodox historiography, were gassed in Chełmno. For instance, the Bonn Jury Court determined its minimum death toll of "at least 145,000" for the camp's first phase based on the Korherr Report (Rüter *et al.* 1979, pp. 285f.).

narz: they found only the ruins of a single crematorium, which had a maximum footprint of 6 m × 5 m, not 6 m × 10 m (see Chapter 10), and therefore had a grate in proportion of 1.5 square meters and a maximum cremation capacity of 45 corpses per 24 hours. This fact completely demolishes any claim that Chełmno was an extermination camp. Nevertheless, in the following section I will continue discussing Bednarz's report to show *a fortiori* its inconsistency.

9.2. The Furnace's Capacity and Wood Requirement

The data calculated in the previous chapter – the cremation of 90 bodies in 24 hours with a consumption of 7,800 kg of coal – are valid for corpses with an average weight of 60 kg, which is that of the alleged victims of gassing (see Graf/Kues/Mattogno 2010, pp. 130-133.).

As we have seen, the calorific value of coal varies from 3,583 to 8,121 kcal/kg, so the average value is 5,852 kcal/kg.[82] Freshly cut wood has a calorific value of 1,911 kcal/kg, equivalent to about (1,911÷5,852×100=) 33% or a third of that of 1 kg of average coal.

Hence, cremating a body of about 60 kg requires (1.45×60×3=) some 260 kg of fresh wood. Thus, in order to cremate the minimum number of alleged victims – about 152,000 bodies (see Chapter 11)[81] – (152,000×260≈) 40 million kg or 40 thousand metric tons of wood would have been required. In the woods around Chełmno we can assume a timber production of about 200 tons per hectare, as in the region of Lublin (*ibid.*, p. 144). Therefore 40 thousand tons of wood would have required the logging of about (40,000÷200=) 200 hectares of forest. In Chapter 10 we will see what consequences follow from this data.

9.3. Contradictions Surrounding the Activity of the Crematoria

Krakowski writes in his article about Chełmno (1983, p. 142):

> *"In August 1944 the Łódź ghetto was liquidated within three weeks, and the 70,000 Jews there were deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau to*

[82] That value is at the low end, since most types of coal have a value around 7-8,000 kcal/kg. The subsequent values are therefore very conservative. The actual fuel-wood consumption might be as high as 350 kg per average corpse.

be gassed. The capacity of Kulmhof would not have sufficed for killing tens of thousands of people in a very short time. The Sonderkommando Bothmann remained in Kulmhof for a little while in order to erase all traces that could have been created by the massacre. Hauptscharführer Walter Burmeister said before the investigating judge:

'During the last few months before we left Kulmhof transports no longer arrived at the camp. In this period the corpses were merely exhumed and burned.'

This statement was confirmed by Alois Häfele:

'[...] *In April 1944 a telegram arrived in Weimar from Bot*[h]*mann in Posen according to which we again were required at the extermination camp Kulmhof. We headed for Kulmhof. Here Bothmann greeted us and told us that this time, by order of the Reichsführer-SS Himmler, it was necessary to remove all traces at Kulmhof. The mass graves of the Waldlager* [forest camp] *were opened. The corpses found in these pits were cremated with the help of Jewish work details in a crematorium that had been built before.'"*

But if the bodies of the camp's first phase were cremated in a first pair of furnaces and those of June/July 1944 in the second pair (in two furnaces, not one as claimed by Häfele), which mass graves were reopened in 1944?

In Krakowski's 2007 book these contradictions are even more evident (pp. 122f.):

"After the liquidation of the ghettos in the Warthegau and the 'closure' days of the Łódź ghetto, transports to Chełmno were suspended. Throughout the autumn of 1942 and during the months of winter 1942/1943 the camp staff was busy removing the traces of their murder, a work which had begun already in the spring of 1942. In September 1942 these activities were further accelerated under the supervision of Paul Blobel. The Germans built two corpse-cremation plants in a clearing. The mass graves were opened, and work details were forced to exhume the bodies and to carry them to the crematoria."

He then states that in March 1943 it was decided to liquidate the camp and to assign its staff (the Bothmann *Sonderkommando*) to the SS Division "Prinz Eugen" which operated in Yugoslavia (*ibid.*, p. 123), adding (*ibid.*, p. 125):

> *"On 7 April 1944 the men* [the Jewish detainees] *blew up the crematorium and a part of the castle which had been used to receive the victims prior to their murder."*

But in November 1943 the SS staff was sent back to the camp "to complete activities in order to conceal the massacre that had been carried out" (*ibid.*, p. 127).

When the Bothmann *Sonderkommando* returned to Chełmno in April 1944 in order to resume the extermination activities, "two identical crematoria were built in the forest for the cremation of corpses" (*ibid.*, p. 132). All the corpses of the alleged victims from the camp's first phase (1941-1942) who had been buried in mass graves were exhumed and then cremated in the old crematoria; all the corpses of the second phase (1944) were cremated in the new furnaces. In contradiction to this, Krakowski states that in the fall of 1944 Jewish prisoners in the *Waldlager* were forced "to pull out the corpses of the dead from mass graves" (*ibid.*, p. 161) and explicitly reiterates:

> *"Incomparably worse was the situation of those prisoners who were brought daily to Waldlager in order to open up the mass graves and to cremate the corpses of the murdered."* (p. 162)
>
> *"The work to conceal the massacre continued until October 1944 – the corpses were pulled from the mass graves and burned, their bones crushed, the ashes scattered, the land cleared."* (p. 164)

These contradictions perfectly reflect the testimonies. In fact, they provide conflicting data also about the mass graves, which – it should be made clear – were used only during the first months of the camp's activity, until the first two crematoria were built.

Krakowski tells us in this regard that three clearings existed in the *Waldlager*; the largest of them contained two pits 30 m × 10 m and 2 m deep; the middle-sized clearing had a single pit of a similar size, and in the smaller clearing there was a pit of 12 m × 10 m, 3 m deep (*ibid.*, p. 34). However, with reference to another testimony he subsequently mentions a pit measuring 200 m × 5 m, another 50 m long and a third 150 m long (*ibid.*, p. 60). Another witness, Johann I. (his last name is not given), refers to two pits 20-30 m long, 6-8 m wide and 4 m deep (Rückerl 1979, p. 272).

9.4. The Chełmno "Crematoria" and "Field incinerators *Aktion* Reinhardt"

I have stated above that, according to orthodox Holocaust historiography, the "field incinerators *Aktion* Reinhardt" had been built by Blobel in Chełmno after several attempts as a result of his cremation experiments in connection with the alleged *Aktion* 1005. The explanations I have provided in the previous sections allow the reader to judge to what extent this assumption is based on historical fact.

Jean-Claude Pressac summarized Dejaco's witness statement about his report of 17 September 1942 during the hearing of 20 January 1972 in the Vienna trial, where he was charged together with his former colleague Fritz Ertl. Pressac commented (1993, pp. 57f.):

> *"According to Dejaco, the installation resembled a large circular charcoal kiln with a diameter of 4 to 6 meters, and backfilled on its periphery. Blobel insisted on arranging the corpses and the wood in layers, which always had to be alternated. Blobel was of the opinion that his installation was not convenient for a fast incineration, given that the combustion was slow. Nevertheless, the principle (alternated stacking) was to be preserved.* [...] *Blobel's installation was not reproduced in Birkenau, but its principle was applied: combustion of layers of wood and corpses stacked alternately on vast grates, consisting of railroad rails supported by small brick pillars."*

The cremation facility at Auschwitz described by Pressac is not based on reality nor on documents or testimonies,[83] so it is pure conjecture on his part. Besides, it would also have been technically very difficult, since large piles of alternating layers of wood and corpses burn unevenly. Hence the pile would sooner or later lean to one side or the other and would ultimately topple over, spilling burning wood, embers and corpse parts off the grate.

According to Höss, in fact, the outdoor cremation of corpses in Auschwitz was carried out in a completely different way from what he said he had observed at Chełmno (Broszat 1981, p. 161):

[83] Witnesses of open-air incinerations in Auschwitz usually talk about one layer of wood at the bottom of a trench (or pyre), followed by huge piles of corpses or alternately added layers of wood and corpses, on occasion sprinkled with corpse fat allegedly collected from the burning corpses. Railway grates are not part of the Auschwitz lore (cf. Mattogno 2005, pp. 13-23).

> *"We started with the cremation only toward the end of summer; first on a pile of wood with about 2,000 corpses, then in the pits with the exhumed corpses from earlier. First the corpses were doused with oil-refinery byproducts,*[84] *and later with methanol.*[85] *Cremation in the pits went on continuously, hence day and night. By the end of November all mass graves had been emptied. The number of corpses buried in the mass graves was 107,000. This figure not only includes the transports of exterminated Jews from the beginning up to the time when they began the cremations, but also the corpses of prisoners who had died in Auschwitz in the winter of 1941/42, when the crematorium next to the hospital was out of operation for a long time. All the prisoners who died in the Birkenau camp are included as well."*

This process has no resemblance to the "field incinerators" allegedly used by Blobel for cremations, nor did a "ball mill" exist at Auschwitz to crush the cremation residues. So what brought Höss to Chełmno? And if simple pyres or simple pits sprinkled with refinery byproducts or methanol sufficed to easily cremate tens of thousands of corpses, why did the *RSHA* order Blobel to carry out cremation "experiments" at Chełmno?

Dejaco's statements further complicate the story: the "experiments" carried out by Blobel would in fact lead to the creation of a "charcoal kiln" (*Kohlenmeiler*) which was, by its own creator's admission, totally inefficient for mass cremation!

As for the "principle" of the system – alternating layers of wood and corpses – allegedly brought to Auschwitz from Chełmno: it was a very primitive technique of cremation. The true "principle" of Blobel's system, however, was instead specified as a "charcoal pile," which has never been tried or even suggested in the history of modern cremation, and for good reason. The purpose of such a pile is indeed to produce charcoal by incomplete combustion of wood, therefore carbonization, not cremation or incineration (complete combustion), so it is obvious that such a system was quite inefficient for mass cremation of corpses, to put it mildly.

84 In German: "*Ölrückständen.*"

85 The only known Auschwitz document which mentions methanol (methyl alcohol) is the *Standortbefehl* (garrison order) no. 30/44 of 11 December 1944, with which the camp commander forbade the SS men to purchase vodka from Poles, because it contained methanol which had caused cases of blindness and death among the acquiring SS men (Frei *et al.*, 2000, p. 519).

10. Excavations and Archaeological Findings

10.1. Investigations of Judge Bednarz and the Koniń Museum

In 1945 the Chełmno camp was examined by Judge Bednarz, who briefly described the material findings (1946a, pp. 20f.):

> *"When the pits into which the ashes and crushed bones had been dumped were reopened in the course of the investigation, ashes, hair, traces of chlorine – apparently thrown in for the purpose of disinfection – bones and bone fragments as well as small objects were found, such as combs, buttons, purses, etc. (document of the protocol of investigations, Card 530). It should also be noted that, because of soil fertilization with human ashes, the vegetation in this area is much more lush and green in color."*

Further archeological surveys were conducted in 1951 and in 1986-1987. The latter, sponsored by the District Museum, at that time headed by Łucja Nowak, were summarized as follows by Janusz Gulczyński (1991, pp. 91-93):

> *"In the former camp in the woods of Rzuchów the Museum of Martyrdom is located, which is a branch of the museum district of Koniń. Upon its initiative, various works were undertaken in relation to the layout of the terrain. Investigations have been carried out to obtain the largest possible number of artifacts linked to the crime scene, in general to the martyrdom of the Jewish population during the last war.* […]
>
> *In 1986, archeological-documentary work began in the clearings of the Rzuchów forest by a group of staffers of the museum district of Koniń. The purpose of the excavations was to extract from the earth any artifacts and to validate all things where possible in order to develop information about Chełmno in relation to the years 1941-1945. The point of departure of the work was the data derived from interpretation of aerial photographs taken by the army in 1958. Photo interpretation allowed locating within the boundaries of the forest area the contours of mass graves, of four barracks and also of trenches whose function was not very clear. Another purpose was to verify the photo interpretations of and to discover the remains of a*

crematorium. Five excavations were carried out with a total surface area of 208 square meters. It was clear that the traces of the barracks were not preserved. They were probably removed during development in the Sixties and Seventies. It was found that burned human bones, in addition to being scattered around the Warta region, were also scattered in the woods. Even now they emerge on the surface. The function of one trench has been established: it probably served the Hitlerites to burn the victims' personal belongings which were unsuitable to be sent back to the Reich. Thus from the probing trench dug during this survey a large number of objects was retrieved – studded handbags, purses, suitcases, shoes, belt buckles, knives, clothes pins, prosthetic fittings, dentures, buttons – including those from Soviet uniforms – casings of rifle cartridges, pistols, etc.

Partial remains of one of the crematoria were identified. It is shaped like a big hole with dimensions of about 17 × 17 m with sloping walls. The furnace is filled with sand of a light gray color with ashes and a huge amount of crushed human bones. At a depth of 2 m under the excavation walls blocks of broken concrete and bricks were found, which are the remains of the blown-up crematorium. It was observed that the cement had been reinforced with parts of baby carriages. On each of the furnace's walls a system of drainage pipes [sic] *was discovered which probably led air into the furnace. These data are contained in a report by the archeological section of the museum district of Koniń,* archeological excavations, Chełmno upon Ner, 1986*. Research continued the following year. This time attention focused on two excavations. More debris of the crematorium was discovered: concrete blocks, broken bricks, etc. Within the ventilating drainage tubes a black layer was observed, like soot: traces of the smoke from cremating corpses. Everywhere minute human bone fragments were found, especially ashes and bone dust. At a depth of 3 meters the surface of one excavation trench was covered with a mass of tiny bones. All this made a particularly gruesome impression.*

In the second excavation, where concrete debris, bricks and drainage pipes were also discovered, other artifacts were found: the soles of shoes, broken prostheses, buckles, spoons, forks, etc. There were no human bones and bone dust, at least not in large amounts, in comparison with the excavation carried out at the location of the crematorium. The hypothesis was confirmed last year: that place

> *was probably used to burn various items of no value, hence inappropriate for sending to the Reich."*

In late November of 1988, the Konin District Museum sent to the Institute of Forensic Medicine of the Medical Academy of Poznań a parcel containing four bags filled with earth mixed with ashes and bone fragments taken from the Chełmno camp. The Konin Museum asked for a report on the samples sent in order to determine whether these fragments contained bones and human ashes and what their percentage was. The Institute of Forensic Medicine confirmed on 5 December 1988 that the bone fragments and ashes were human, adding that the percentage of residual bone in the material sent could be estimated "*na kilka procent*,"[86] – at a few percent.[87]

10.2. The Map of the Camp

In 1989 Zdzisław Lorek, on behalf of the Konin District Museum, produced a map of the former Chełmno camp with a precise indication of the excavations and archeological findings,[88] which was updated in 1996, using the most recent findings.[89] Before analyzing this, it should be noted that the dimensions of the crematorium mentioned by Gulczyński – 17 m × 17 m – are clearly wrong, as the current architectural reconstruction of the furnace measures roughly 6 m × 5 m (see Documents 17-20). A plaque in Polish informs the reader:

> *"In this place the foundations of a furnace were discovered in which thousands of bodies of murdered Jews were cremated. Its contours have been reconstructed on the surface with authentic fragments of the furnace."* (See Document 21.)

This is confirmed by a photograph of yore showing the archeological excavation relating to the furnace (see Document 14).

The plan divides the above-mentioned camp into four quarters (*Kwatera* I to IV). Sector I (see Document 12a) is located behind the entrance to the camp (see Documents 22f.). The memorial for the victims and the small museum are located there. The irregular trapezoid that appears above the words "*Kwatera I*" represents an excavation

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86 The indefinite pronoun "kilka" means "some," "several."
87 Letter reproduced in Gulczyński 1991; appendix outside of text.
88 The map was published in *ibid.*
89 This map can be found in Krakowski 1996, outside of text; see Document 12.

carried out in 1951. The small circle on the left with an inverted black triangle inscribed is the "presumed location of the fuel storage in 1944." Below this, on the right, the oblique H-shaped design with the inscription "w.s. I. II. III, 1991 r." indicates three excavation surveys carried out in 1991 ("w.s." stands for "*wykopy sondażowe*," excavation survey).

Sector II (see Document 12b) is defined as "location of killing and burial of the first group of Jews." From top to bottom, they show "the burning of old wood / June 1942," the symbol of the flames, the "Lapidarium" (see Document 24), the "symbolic grave of the children of Lidice" represented by the parallelogram with crosses inside (see Section 14.2.). On the left, the rectangular shape covered with "T"s, is a "mass grave discovered by the archeological survey." But the surveys, indicated by a dot accompanied by the initials "w.s.," are only 5 in number and very far apart: the nearest is about 14 meters away, and between the first and last is a distance of about 48 meters. The circle inscribed with a black triangle above the rectangle bears the inscription "[Here] were unearthed skulls and long bones of the murdered victims"; the circle underneath the parallelogram has this inscription: "[Here] were unearthed belongings of the murdered victims." Under the circle, the inscription "w.IV/86" indicates Excavation No. IV carried out in 1986.

Sector III (see Document 12b) contains a very narrow long rectangle with "T"s inside. The related caption for this symbol says, "*Uporządkowane mogiły żydowskie*," namely "arranged Jewish graves." It alludes to the fact that these areas were framed by a concrete wall and filled with sand (see Document 25) in what constitutes the "arrangement" mentioned above. But, as we shall see below, the "arrangement" has an alternative significance. Based on the scale of the map, the pit is approximately 190 meters long. The small circle at the bottom with the black triangle inscribed indicates "fragments of brick and/or slag." The shaded rectangle to the left indicates the "traces of a furnace / floor plan of 1951."

Sector IV (see Document 12c) is that of the alleged mass extermination. A concrete wall is dedicated "to the memory of Jews killed at Chełmno 1941-1945" (see Document 27). On the map it is called "*ściana pamięci*," "wall of remembrance." Under "*Kwatera IV*" is the inscription: "(1951 – outlines of three pits 150 m × 5 m and in the SE part a field crematorium)." The three pits are the three long narrow rectangles with the "T"s inside, designated in the caption, "arranged Jewish

graves" (see Document 26). At the northern end of the central pit is a Star of David. According to the caption, the shaded areas are the "presumed location of buildings or other objects" according to the interpretation of aerial photographs. An "a" indicates the two furnaces from 1942; the remaining symbols have the following meanings:

"b": "probably the wooden shed for the motorized mill to grind the unburnt bones to powder";

"e": "probably field crematoria, circular pits with a diameter of 4 meters with stone cladding, 1942";

"f": "probably 'undressing' cabins inscribed '*Durchgangslager*' and storage for clothes of the murdered victims, 1944."

The significance of the figure corresponding to "g" is not indicated. The caption states instead that these interpretations are based on witness statements.

At the bottom, in front of the "wall of remembrance," two black rectangles identified by the symbols "A/86" and "B/87" signify two excavations carried out in 1986 and 1987, like the symbols "wI/86," "WII (/86)" and "wV/87." The caption provides this explanation:

Excavation I: negative result
Excavation II: remains of a cremation furnace
Excavation III: negative result
Excavation IV: mass grave
Excavation V: pit used to burn belongings of victims

In the caption is also a rectangle with a double border as a kind of frame with the following explanation:

> *"Cremation furnace from 1944 located during archeological investigations."*

It is located between the two black rectangles mentioned above and is mostly covered by them.[90]

10.3. Investigations of 2003-2004

The Konin District Museum carried out further archeological investigations in 2003-2004. The results have been summarized on the related website by Łucja Pawlicka Kamiński (Pawlicka Nowak). A thorough examination of these investigations will be possible only when a scien-

[90] Julet Golden has also written about the first archeological survey, but his account is very superficial (2003, pp. 50-53).

tific study is published like that of Prof. Andrzej Kola on archeological investigations carried out in the former Bełżec camp (Kola 2000).

In Sector IV of the camp, the most important with regard to the alleged extermination activities, a mass grave 174 m long and 8 m wide was allegedly identified, plus a second, parallel pit, 182 meters long and 10 m wide, and furthermore 11 pits of varied dimensions between 9 m × 7.5 m and 8.5 m × 15.5 m, located alongside the second pit, 2-3 meters apart. The pits are said to have been discovered "by random testing and drilling," but it is not explained what criteria were used. The map which shows the new findings (see Document 12e) is not clear: it seems, for example, that for the first pit (174 m long) only four sample drillings were carried out (numbered VI to IX), which were very far apart, and maybe two unnumbered others in the final section at the bottom. For the second pit there are seven indications that could be drill sites. The map shows that the area of the first pit and the series of 11 pits partially overlaps that of the outer pits (B and D) indicated on the earlier map of Lorek (see Document 12 c), while the second pit is adjacent to the central one (C). In practice, the new surveys have "confirmed" the three pits defined earlier by arbitrary means, and this was to be expected.

Moreover six cremation sites have been detected, indicated in the map above with the numbers 2/03, 3/03, 4/03, 5/03, 20/03 and 21/03.

A comparison with Lorek's map shows, however, that the findings 2/03, 3/03, 4/03 and 5/03 had already been examined before, but at that time they had not been considered to be cremation sites so that here only the interpretation has changed. But for the findings 20/03 and 21/03 the function as a cremation site is only alleged. For good reason Pawlicka Kamiński (Pawlicka Nowak) concluded that "the results of the archeological investigation described above will not answer all questions and all doubts; the question of the crematoria remains particularly uncertain" (Pawlicka Nowak). The alleged cremation sites mentioned above were in fact temporary facilities (which are, moreover, not attested to by witnesses) and are unrelated to the two claimed brick furnaces, one of which – according to Pawlicka Kamiński (Pawlicka Nowak) – was discovered in 1986-1987, while the second was not found even in the course of subsequent investigations.

10.4. The Results of the Investigations

The only mass grave found in the first phase of archeological investigations is that in Sector II. However, as I said above, it was identified basically only by five drillings, which I have numbered from 1 to 5 in an enlargement of the map (see Document 12d). From this it can be seen clearly that Drill Sample no. 3 was taken from outside the area of the alleged mass grave, which is about 20 meters wide and about 60 meters long. This huge area was then allegedly identified on the basis of four drillings made at great distances from each other. This is neither scientific nor can it be taken seriously. Apart from the width of the trench – about 20 meters – it contradicts the testimony of "Szlamek" and Podchlebnik, who speak of 5 meters and 6.7 meters, respectively. I remind the reader that Sector II was the alleged "killing and burial place of the first group of Jews," *i.e.* of the first Jews to arrive at the camp, among whom also these two witnesses are said to have been.

The three long 150 m × 5 m "arranged" pits do not derive, in fact, from archeological surveys. In 1964 Edward Serwański published a map of Chełmno in which next to Sector D (= Sector IV of Lorek's map), referred to as "clearing with traces of the crematoria," is Sector C, which is explained as follows: "*polana z symbolicznymi mogiłami pomordowanych Żydów*," that is: "clearing with symbolic graves of murdered Jews." So the three graves in question are merely "symbolic" – just like the common grave of the Lidice children – and the same goes for the alleged mass grave in Sector III. These graves are therefore "*uporządkowane*," "arranged" in the sense that they are a symbolic museum reconstruction.

The second phase of archeological investigations (2003-2004) is said to have confirmed the presence of a grave in Sector II (8 to 3 m wide and 62 m long), a rectangular pit 254 meters long in Sector III, and especially the three graves in Sector IV mentioned above, all matching Lorek's map precisely. Thus the symbols were made reality.

Pawlicka Kamiński (Pawlicka Nowak) refers to the "aerial photograph of Chełmno of May 1942, very important in the search for graves" (see Document 13), asserting that "it shows both clearings [sectors II and III]; the pits were probably camouflaged," or else do not appear at all in the photograph, although they should have been present on the site since December 1941. Another aerial photograph of October 1944 allegedly shows clearly "the clearings with the pits and the place

where the wood was burned during the experimental cremation of corpses with thermite incendiary bombs during the first phase of the [murder] center" (Pawlicka Nowak). But despite its obvious importance, this aerial photograph was never published.

Excavations revealed the remains of only one crematorium (see Document 14). Because of its underground structure with a reinforced concrete base, it was extremely difficult to remove all the debris after it was destroyed using explosives. For this precise reason, the Poles have found many remains of this furnace. But of the other three claimed furnaces, there is no certain archeological trace. Yet the so-called eyewitnesses – Żurawski, Srebrnik and Podchlebnik – should have been able to indicate easily the precise spots where they were. From this flows the hard-to-deny conclusion that there was only one crematorium at Chełmno.

The alleged extermination area, Sector IV, has the shape of an irregular trapezoid with sides – clockwise from the north – of around 130, 190, 170 and 250 meters. The most interesting thing arising from Lorek's map is that this sector is surrounded on all sides by woods dating from a period prior to the creation of the camp; it is in fact bordered on the north by a pine forest (*las sosnowy)* dating from 1929, on the west by a pine forest from 1927, on the south by a pine wood from 1929 and on the west by a pine forest from 1927. To the south, across the road which leads to Majdany, extends another pine forest dating from 1932. The rest of the camp is also surrounded by pine forests from before the war: to the north of Sector II, there is a small pine forest dating from 1919, where the museum has been built, and in front of it an even smaller pine stand from 1929. Across the road, which marks the northern boundary of the field, there is a large forest of spruce and pine from 1919 stretching over 450 meters. South of Sector II, between Sector III and the camp's eastern boundary, extending for about 550 meters from north to south and about 250 from west to east, are three small pine woods from 1929 and a forest of spruce and pine also from 1929. Two other pine woods dating from 1929 and 1927 lie north of Sector III (see Document 12). So in 1944 the oldest woods were 17 years old.

Within the grounds of the camp, Lorek's map shows four small areas of reforestation: the first ("stand of spruce and birch / about 1942-1943") is located west of Sector II, the second ("spruce and birch stand / approx 1942") is located south of Area II and the third ("pine forest with admixture of birch / about 1942-43") is located at the southern end

of Sector III, and the fourth ("pine forest / about 1945") is in the southern Sector IV. The total area of these woods is about one hectare. From the dates it is clear that these woods (except perhaps the last) were planted by the SS, who apparently had previously cleared the respective areas.

Assuming that the felling had been carried out in order to obtain timber for the cremation of corpses of the victims, from this hectare of pine forest less than 20 years old, the SS would have produced about 200 tons of timber, enough to cremate (200,000÷260=) about 770 bodies. However, as we saw above, to cremate the bodies of the minimum number of alleged victims would have required clearing 200 hectares of forest. To get an idea of such an area, it is enough to consider that – as indicated in the key to Lorek's map – the actual surface area of the Chełmno camp is 8.92 hectares, so that the area to be cleared would have been more than 22 times larger than the entire camp! Because no witness said that the wood came by rail, we might suppose that it had been cut near the camp. But the logging of an area of two square kilometers around the camp would not have gone unnoticed, and Judge Bednarz would certainly have submitted it as evidence for the cremation of the bodies of the victims. However, he never mentioned any such thing.

On the other hand, as can be seen in the aerial photograph of the area of the camp from May 1942 (see Document 13), which shows a rectangle of about 1,200 × 1,900 meters (= 228 hectares, roughly the area to be cleared!), there was a lot of treeless, agricultural land around the wooded area of the camp. Hence the SS would have had to fetch the wood from even further away, using teams of inmate loggers and trucks. In order to transport 40 thousand tons of wood needed for the cremation of corpses, eight thousand trips of a 5-ton truck would have been required. This coming and going of trucks full of wood directly to the camp would have been noticed by the local Polish population, but Judge Bednarz does not say anything in this regard either.

On this Krakowski notes (2007, p. 123):

> *"Trees from the surrounding woods were used for firewood. The Pole Michał Radoszewski was one of those forced wood suppliers. According to his testimony, the supplied timber was unloaded in the area of the crematorium by Jewish forced laborers. Having their feet shackled, they could move only in small steps. The Germans beat*

them incessantly, goaded and mistreated them. Radoszewski also reported the smell of smoke that hovered over the area."

The Jury Court in Bonn ascertained that "the Jewish *Kommandos* working in the camp consisted at each instance of about 50-60 people altogether" and (Rüter *et al.* 1979, p. 280):

"The major part of the Jewish inmates, some 30 men, worked as 'Waldkommando' in the Waldlager [forest camp] *and had to empty the gas vans, rough-clean them, and put the corpses into the pits."*

Krakowski records the statements of witness Walter Piller according to whom (2007, p. 161)

"In the fall of 1944 there were 80-90 Jewish inmates in the Chełmno camp who were divided into two groups. A small part of them was brought to the forest camp each day, where they were forced to pull out the corpses of those murdered from the mass graves, to work at the crematorium and ultimately to dismantle these crematoria in order to erase the traces of this massacre."

So a "*Holzkommando*" (wood-gathering detail), which would have been absolutely essential for the cremation of corpses, is not even mentioned. It could be formed only from some of the 30 prisoners mentioned above, at most a few dozen prisoners, most-strikingly with their feet shackled. They would have had to cut trees for 40,000 tons of wood (and load and unload a truck more than ten thousand times) in a period of five months[91] or 150 days, averaging about 267 tons (or 53 full trucks) a day!

The cremation of 152,000 corpses would have produced at least 456 tons of human ashes, or approximately 940 cubic meters (Davies/Mates 2005, p. 134).

As Judge Bednarz established (see Section 9.1.):

"The ashes were dumped in trenches 4 meters deep and 8-10 meters wide. They were then covered with earth. On that site a stand of partly conifers and partly birches was planted."

Let us assume that the soil analyzed by the Institute of Forensic Medicine of the Medical Academy of Poznań was taken from one of these pits. The analysis shows, however, that the soil contained only small

[91] According to the orthodox version transports arrived at the camp during nine months, including December 1941; the two furnaces are said to have been built in the spring of 1942, therefore not before March, hence they cremated over no more than five months.

proportions of human bone fragments and ashes. This, too, contradicts the thesis of mass cremation.

The alleged cremation of 152,000 corpses has therefore no documentary basis and no support from material evidence.

11. The Alleged Number of Victims

The first official Polish surveys on the number of victims of Chełmno contradict each other. On 20 May 1945 the Commission for the Investigation of German Crimes in Poland, a delegation of the Central Commission for Investigation of German Crimes in Poland, fixed this number at 1,300,000! (Gulczyński 1995, p. 31 & p. 40, note 50.)

The witness Andrzej Miszczak was more precise (Blumental 1946, p. 242):

> *"After an exact and precise calculation, the number of people murdered by the Hitlerite cannibals amounted to 1,300,097"!*

The Polish War Crimes Office, however, while not mentioning a precise figure, advocated a much lower order of magnitude: a few tens of thousands. In its report we read:[92]

> *"The first transport was in December 1942* [should be: 1941], *when the district of Koło was purged of Jews: so the Germans deported about 2,000 Jews from Koło and about 1,000 from around Dębie. Starting in mid-January 1943* [sic], *even tens of thousands of Jews from the Łódź ghetto were brought to the Chełmno camp."*

These data were then included in the report of the Polish Government for the Nuremberg trials submitted to and accepted by the Soviets as Document USSR-93, which dedicated to Chełmno the few lines that follow:[93]

> *"This camp was a receiving station for Jews arriving from the Reich and the incorporated territories. The first transport arrived there in December 1942. At that time 2,000 Jews from Koło and about 1,000 Jews from Dębie were murdered."*

At the end of 1945 Judge W. Bednarz carried out a preliminary investigation into the camp. In his report, dated 7 January 1946, he devoted a whole chapter to the number of victims (Bednarz 1946d, pp. 6-8):

> *"There is no way of determining the number of those murdered in Chełmno, neither on the basis of the camp's reports nor based on reports relating to Jewish rail transports, because the camp authorities destroyed all documents, and all tickets were taken away during*

[92] Report by Dr. J. Litawski, officer in charge of the Polish War Crimes Office, 1945. AGK, MSW Londyn, 113, p. 626.

[93] USSR 93, p. 84 of the English translation.

the evacuation. Regarding direct transports to Chełmno the preliminary investigation had to restrict itself to testimonies. Because it wished to investigate the number of victims as accurately and authoritatively as possible, it interrogated the witnesses who were at various locations through which the transports of the Reich passed (Łódź, Koło, Powiercie, Zawadki, Chełmno). The testimonies are based on tickets seen (and other statements by the witness Lange, employee at the Koło train station), on personal observations (counted transports), and on figures given by German members of the Sonderkommando regarding the transports.

With regard to the number of Jews in each transport, the witnesses agree: the number was at least 1,000 people per train. There were periods when the number was higher, but in general it must be concluded that the number of about 1,000 is reliable, because it was constantly repeated by the witnesses at different stages [of the camp's history].

As this figure does not include transports by motor vehicles, the preliminary investigation has therefore all the more reason to take the minimum figure of 1,000 victims a day.

Transports with vehicles were particularly numerous during the liquidation of ghettos in small towns. If one considers the number of Jews throughout the territory, the number of victims who were brought to Chełmno in vehicles must have been considerable. So far precise calculations are still impossible, because until now no statistics exist about the population killed by the occupation authorities.

When asked how many trains were brought to Chełmno during the time of [its activities]*, the preliminary investigation provides the following answer:*

The activities of mass murder in Chełmno lasted from 8 December 1941 to 7 April 1943. (In the period from April 1943 until the complete liquidation of the camp in January 1945 the camp was virtually inactive. In this period only 10 transports arrived, which are approximately 10,000 victims). Let us now consider the period from 8 December 1941 to 7 April 1943, that is a period of 480 days, from which we can subtract an interruption of two months in the spring of 1942, when no transports arrived, as well as short interruptions due to technical difficulties, i.e. 70-90 days in all. The camp had to work on Sundays and holidays, for example, the maximum activity there was during Pentecost 1942. So from the 480 days we want to sub-

> *tract 130-150. The number of 330 days of activity of the extermination camp Chełmno thus corresponds to reality. Assuming that each day 1,000 people were killed, we arrive at 330,000 murdered during the period of 330* [active] *days of the death camp. To this number must be added the 10,000 Jews who were killed in 1944. Overall one has to assume a minimum figure of 340,000 victims murdered at Chełmno – men, women and children (even infants).”*

This became the official number of victims for half a century and as such appeared in the authoritative *Bulletin of the Central Commission for Investigation of German Crimes in Poland* (Bednarz 1946b, p. 157). At the hearing on 27 February 1946 of the Nuremberg Tribunal, Soviet High Councilor of Justice Smirnov read an extract from the document USSR-340 containing the figure of 340,000 victims.[94]

The *Encyclopedic Informer*, published in 1979 by this Polish Commission (which had changed its name in the meantime), indicated a total of 310,000 victims, using Bednarz’s calculation method, but with an unexplained reduction in the range from 330 to 300 days: 300 × 1,000 + 10,000 = 310,000 (Główna Komisja… 1979, pp.129f.).

During the criminal trial against former members of the Chełmno *Sonderkommando*, the Bonn Jury Court settled for an alleged minimum death toll of 152,000, consisting of 145,000 victims during the camp’s first phase and 7,000 during its second phase. The court based its assumptions for the camp’s first operational phase on the figure given in the so-called Korherr Report for Jews led “through the camps of the Warthegau…145,301.” Korherr even appeared as a witness to confirm this number (Rüter *et al.* 1979, pp. 285f.). The figures of the camp’s second phase are based on deportation lists compiled by the “Statistical Department of the Eldest of the Jews in the Ghetto of Litzmannstadt,” according to which 7,176 Jews were deported from the ghetto in summer 1944, although with no destination given (*ibid.*, p. 286). Hence the court assumed a minimum death toll of 145,000 for the first and 7,100 or 7,000 for the second phase (*ibid.*, pp. 235, 241, 263, 286).

Polish historiography was subsequently adjusted to this order of magnitude. In 1995 Julian Baranowski wrote (1995, pp. 23f.):

> *“As a result of this process* [of mass extermination], *which lasted from 10 December 1941 to 12 September 1942, more than 134,000 inhabitants of the ghettos in the region of Warta and more than*

[94] IMT, vol. 8, pp. 330f. Bednarz’s name is misspelled there as “Wladislav Bengash,” the camp as “Helmno.”

Table 2: Victims of the Chełmno camp per Baranowski 1995, p. 24

DISTRICTS	NUMBER OF JEWS DECEMBER 1941	DATES OF EXTERMINATION	NUMBER OF MURDER VICTIMS	NUMBER DEPORTED TO ŁÓDŹ GHETTO
Łódź city	167,540	I-V and IX 1942 VI-VII 1944	70,672 7,196	/
Ciechocinek	1,580	IV 1942	1,580	/
Gostynin	about 4400	IV 1942	about 4400	/
Kalisz and city	1,449	III 1942	972	522
Koło	3,830	XII-1941 – II 1942	3,830	
Kutno	about 13,000	III-IV 1942	about 10,700	
Łask	21,734	VI-VIII 1942	15,859	5,875
Łęczyca	10,528	V-VIII 1942	8,760	1,767
Łódź surrounding area	6,203	V 1942	2,423	3,780
Sieradz	11,731	VIII 1942	9,589	2,142
Turek	3,432	XII 1941-VII 1942	3,342	190
Wieluń	10,490	VIII 1942	9,498	992
Wocławek	5,639	IV-V 1942	2,557	3,082
Total	*261,556**	/	*151,378***	*18,350*

* In the original erroneously 261,558; ** In the original erroneously 151,380

10,000 Western European Gypsies were murdered in the Chełmno camp. Among them, sharing this fate, were over 4,000 Gypsies from the Austro-Hungarian border region. The second phase of the liquidation of Jews in the Chełmno camp began in June 1944. The victims of this action were the inhabitants of the last European ghetto – the ghetto of Łódź. Until its closure on 14 July 1944, 7,200 more Jews perished in this camp. The tally of the extermination of the Jewish population in the Warta region and of the Jews deported from Western Europe to be liquidated comes close to 151,000. Even if adding approximately 4,000 Gypsies and assuming a figure of some 3,000 Jews from the labor camps liquidated by the Łódź district government, the death toll of the Chełmno extermination camp is far short of figures given so far. In light of the figures contained in the attached table, the data about the extermination of 200,000 and even more than 300,000 victims alleged in these publications are far from the truth, are highly exaggerated."

The data of the table in question, entitled "The extermination of the Jews from the territory of Warthegau and Western Europe at Chełmno

upon Ner during the period December 1941 to July 1944," is given in Table 2.

Hence the number of alleged victims posited by today's orthodox historians, including Polish historiography, is less than half the figure put forward by Judge Bednarz in 1946.

In this context it is perhaps interesting to note that the order of magnitude of the future alleged total death toll of the Chełmno camp was already anticipated in late November 1942. At that time the clandestine Polish periodical *Ziemie Zachodnie Rzeczypospolitej* (Western Territory of the Republic) wrote (Chrzanowski 1985, p. 100):

> *"From December 1941 to October of this year 250,000 to 300,000 Jews, mainly from the Łódź district and partly from Germany, have so far gone to this camp and have not returned."*

12. Jewish Deportation Transports to Chełmno

12.1. Transports from Warthegau to the Łódź Ghetto

The first three Jewish transports to arrive in the ghetto of Łódź from the Warthegau were made up as follows:

- First transport: 937 Jews from Leslau
- second transport: 762 Jews from Lubraniec and 316 from Chodecz
- third transport: 399 Jews from Brześć Kujawski and 668 from Kowal

The total of these three sets of deportees is therefore 3,082 Jews.[95] Concerning the third transport there is a report by the head of the Hygiene Section (*Gesundheits-Abteilung*) of the ghetto dated 10 October 1941:[96]

> *"Re. C h i l d r e n .*
> *Among the* [668] *Jews admitted on 9 October 1941 are*
> *374 C h i l d r e n .*
> *All those admitted from K o w a l had been housed in a church since 29 September 1941 together with their children, where many children have suffered through the measles. A measles epidemic raged in Kowal.*
> *Right now 193 children are incubating the measles, and the measles will most likely break out on 11 or 12 Oct. 1941.*
> *Since no case of measles exists here in the ghetto, a strict and absolute isolation of the admitted children is necessary in order to prevent spreading the measles."*

After referring to cases of other infectious diseases among these children, the report continues:

> *"Re.: A d u l t s :*
> *intensely louse-infested,*
> *several cases of blindness,*
> *one pneumonia,*
> *one open tuberculosis,*

[95] "*Eingesiedelte im Jahre 1941 aus dem Altreich, Wien, Prag, Luxemburg und aus Leslau und Umgebung*." APL, PSZ, 863, p. 81.

[96] "*Bericht des Vorsitzenden der Gesundheits-Abteilung, Herrn Dr. Miller, vom 10. Oktober 1941 über den Zustand der am 9. Oktober 1941 aus Leslau und Umgebung eingewiesenen Juden*." APL, PSZ, 1570, p. 1. At the end the report bears the stamp of Ch. Rumkowski, "*Der Älteste der Juden in Litzmannstadt*."

74 geriatrics,
Then also scabies and less-severe skin diseases."

In the first half of 1942 7,649 Jews were transferred to the Łódź ghetto from Warthegau in the following transports:

– from Zgierz: a transport (January) of 84 persons
– from Pabianice: 4 transports (17 and 18 May) of 3,652 people
– from Löwenstadt: 4 transports (19 and 20 May) of 2,927 people
– from Osorkow: a transport (22 May) of 741 persons
– from Belchatow: a transport (13June) of 115 persons
– from Zelow: a transport (13 June) of 96 persons
– from 14 unspecified cities: 1 transport (24 June) of 34 persons.

The total number of persons transferred included 1,436 children under fourteen years (including two infants born in 1941) and 171 older than sixty years (including 2 of 89).[97]

12.2. The Deportations to Chełmno

From the "Chronicle of the Łódź Ghetto" the following picture of the deportations of Jews from Łódź to Chełmno results, but is never mentioned:

MONTH	RESETTLED (*AUSGESIEDELT*)	SOURCE*
January	10,003	vol. I, p. 401
February	7,025	vol. I, p. 426
March	24,687	vol. I, p. 445
April	2,349	vol. I, p. 495
May	10,914	vol. II, p. 7
September	15,685**	vol. II, p. 278f.
Total:	*70,663*	

* Dąbrowska/Dobroszycki 1965;
** The deportations took place on 1, 2, and 7 to 12 September

A report from the ghetto's Statistical Office of 30 June 1942 shows the number of evacuees by date of birth, sex and "stages":[98]

97 "*Eingesiedelte aus dem Warthegau 1.I.-30.VI. 1942.*" APL, PSZ, 863, pp. 86f.
98 "*Ausgesiedelte aus dem Getto 1.I.-30.VI.1942.*" APL, PSZ, 863, pp. 57-59.

STAGE	PERIOD	NUMBER OF TRANSPORTS	NUMBER DEPORTED
I	16 to 29 January	14	10,003
II	14 February to 2 April	40	34,073
III	4 to 15 May	12	10,914
	Total:	*66*	*54,990*

Some transports are known in detail from the railway documents that have been preserved. For the period from 16 March to 2 April 1942 we can derive the following numbers:[99]

DAY	EVACUATED – "*AUSGESIEDELT*"	DAY	EVACUATED – "AUSGESIEDELT"
16 March	637	25 March	1,000
17 March	768	26 March	1,001
18 March	1,001	27 March	1,000
19 March	1,000	28 March	1,001
20 March	1,001	29 March	1,000
21 March	1,041	30 March	965
22 March	303	31 March	883
23 March	797	1 April	1,049
24 March	1,000	2 April	1,301
		Total:	*16,748*

The trains left from the station at Widzew-Radegast (Łódź) and arrived at Pryzbyłów and Warthbrücken (Koło) traveling the following distances:

– Widzew-Radegast-Przybylow = 147 km
– Warthbrücken-Widzew-Radegast = 146 km.

The guards of the first four transports traveled up to Przybylow, the others to Warthbrücken. There were always 13 guards, regardless of the number of deportees.

For the period of 4 to 15 May 1942 we have the following data:[100]

99 "*Nachweis der in der Zeit 16.3 – 2.4.42 abgefertigten Juden – Sdz*," in: Hilberg 1981, pp. 145f.

100 "*Nachweis der in der Zeit 4.5 -15.5.42 abgefertigten Juden – Sdz*," in: Jüdisches Historisches… 1960, p. 281.

DATE	EVACUATED – "*AUSGESIEDELT*"	EXPELLED – "*AUSWEISUNG*"[101]
4 May	1,008	1,002
5 May	914	909
6 May	1,000	1,000
7 May	952	952
8 May	954	949
9 May	952	952
10 May	1,005	950
11 May	949	949
12 May	947	947
13 May	1,000	999
14 May	706	706
15 May	606	599
Total:	*10,993*	*10,914*

These trains also left from the Widzew-Radegast station and traveled up to Warthbrücken. The escort was always 13 guards, except 4 May (12 guards).

The table below summarizes the data of orthodox Holocaust historiography concerning evacuations to Chełmno from individual locations each month:

<table>
<tr><th>MONTH/ YEAR</th><th>ŁÓDŹ</th><th>CIECHOCINEK</th><th>GOSTYNIN</th><th>KALISZ</th><th>SIERADZ</th><th>WIELUŃ</th><th>WŁOCŁAWEK</th><th>ŁĘCZYCA</th><th>ŁASK</th><th>KUTNO</th><th>KOŁO</th></tr>
<tr><td>12/'41</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td rowspan="3">3,830</td></tr>
<tr><td>1/'42</td><td>10,003</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>2/'42</td><td>7,025</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>3/'42</td><td>24,687</td><td></td><td></td><td>972</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td rowspan="4">10,700</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>4/'42</td><td>2,349</td><td>1,580</td><td>4,400</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td rowspan="2">2,557</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>5/'42</td><td>10,914</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td rowspan="4">8,760</td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>6/'42</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td rowspan="3">15,859</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>7/'42</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>8/'42</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>9,589</td><td>9,498</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>9/'42</td><td>15,685</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>6/'44</td><td rowspan="2">7,196</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>7/'44</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Totals</td><td>77,859</td><td>1,580</td><td>4,400</td><td>972</td><td>9,589</td><td>9,498</td><td>2,557</td><td>8,760</td><td>15,859</td><td>10,700</td><td>3,830</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="12">Total evacuees: 145,604</td></tr>
</table>

101 "*Bevölkerungsveränderungen im Monat Mai 1942 nach Meldungen*." APL, PSZ 863, p. 52.

12.3. Who Was Evacuated and Why?

In a report by the Gestapo in Łódź on the deportations of 9 June 1942 we read as follows (Jüdisches Historisches… 1960, pp. 285f.):

> *"On order of the Gauleiter all Jews unable to work are to be evacuated and those fit for work of the entire Gau are to be concentrated in the Litzmannstadt ghetto. From here larger quantities of Jews are to be deployed for various works (construction of railroads and roads) in the Gau area, and after completion of the work they are to be led back into the ghetto. The Jews remaining in the ghetto are to be deployed for work there without exception. During the formation of the Gau's first ghettos it proved necessary to make room for the Jews to be settled in. For this purpose a larger number of Jews unable to work was evacuated from the ghetto and sent to the Sonderkommando. 44,152 of the Polish Jews have been resettled since 16 Jan.* [19]*42. Of the 19,848 Jews from the Old Reich, from Austria and the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia which were admitted to the local ghetto in October 1941, 10,993 have been evacuated, so that by now space for about 55,000 Jews has been created in the ghetto."*

So the Jews evacuated were those unable to work, and the reason for the evacuation was to create space for new arrivals fit for work. A later report, dated 2 July 1942, *i.a.* fixed the working-age limit as follows (*ibid.*, p. 292.):

> *"Due to the strong decrease in the Jews' hardiness, the work performance has decreased as well. In this context, the eldest of the Jews has now brought to work assignments all children over 10 years of age in order to ensure that the delivery dates of Army orders are scrupulously met."*

The verdict of the Bonn Jury Court stated:

> *"Since on the one hand emigration had failed, yet on the other hand space had to be created for the ethnic Germans to be resettled, the National Socialist leadership of the Warthegau decided in conjunction with Hitler and Himmler to 'evacuate' (which according to the terminology back then meant: to kill) all Jews unfit for work and to concentrate all those of the entire Gau* [district] *who were fit for work in the ghetto of Lodz."* (Rüter *et al.* 1979, p. 275)

> *"For the most part these were women, children and older men who were no longer fit for work."* (*ibid.*, p. 233; similar p. 281)

In this context Baranowski stated (1999, p. 94):

> *"Another tragedy took place between 3 and 12 September 1942: a deportation directed against children under the age of 10 and adults over 65."*

He published three excerpts from a list of "Jews evacuated from the Litzmannstadt ghetto" (*Evakuierte Juden aus Litzmannstadt-Getto*) dated 7 September 1942 (*ibid.*, p. 93) containing the names of 69 children born between 1939 and 1942 and further states that the Jews of the ghetto in the age group 10 to 65 years were forced to work (*ibid.*, p. 74). If we adopt this figure, the data from 30 June 1942 mentioned above means that of the 54,990 Jews evacuated from the ghetto and allegedly sent to Chełmno, some 46,572, that is almost 85%, were able to work!

Conversely, after the end of the evacuations the number of children under the age of 10 remaining in the ghetto and escaping the alleged gassing at Chełmno was still quite high. From a statistical report called "The population of the ghetto on 1 August 1943 based on year of birth and sex according to dispatches" (*Gettobevölkerung am 1. August 1943 laut Geburtsjahr und Geschlecht nach Meldungen*)[102] we have the following data:

YEAR	MALE	FEMALE	TOTALS	YEAR	MALE	FEMALE	TOTALS
1934	549	447	996	1939	464	439	903
1935	460	464	924	1940	283	279	562
1936	405	341	746	1941	148	112	260
1937	582	610	1,192	1942	88	119	207
1938	517	471	988	1943	39	37	76
				Totals	*3,535*	*3,319*	*6,854*

In addition to these 6,854 children under 9 years old, there were living in the ghetto 1,400 people older than 65 years, broken down by year of birth and sex as appears in the following table. The oldest person was a woman of 95 years.

[102] APL, PSZ, 863, p. 21.

YEAR	MALE	FEMALE	TOTALS	YEAR	MALE	FEMALE	TOTALS
1848	0	1	1	1865	12	5	17
1850	1	2	3	1866	22	18	40
1852	0	3	3	1867	9	1	10
1853	0	1	1	1868	13	45	58
1854	1	0	1	1869	13	49	62
1855	1	0	1	1870	29	25	54
1856	0	3	3	1871	37	83	120
1857	0	3	3	1872	31	57	88
1858	4	2	6	1873	41	114	155
1859	6	5	11	1874	21	74	95
1861	1	3	4	1875	104	176	280
1862	0	4	4	1876	55	107	162
1863	10	13	23	1877	67	117	184
1864	10	1	11	*Totals*	*488*	*912*	*1,400*

The total number of inhabitants of the ghetto unable to work was therefore 8,254 out of a total of 84,280.

From the last known data on the population of the ghetto, dating back to 1 March 1944, we have a total of 77,679 Jews broken down by age as follows:[103]

AGE RANGE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
8	2,248	2,247	4,495
9 – 14	3,373	3,313	6,686
15 – 20	5,670	6,308	11,978
21 – 30	5,811	11,181	16,992
31 – 40	7,620	10,344	17,964
41 – 50	4,443	5,950	10,393
51 – 60	2,663	3,705	6,368
61 – 70	881	1,530	2,411
71 – 80	127	242	369
81 – 86	5	18	23
Totals:	*32,841*	*44,838*	*77,679*

Above I noted that on 30 June 1942, of the 54,990 Jews evacuated from the ghetto, 46,572 were able to work. Children under 10 and seniors over 65 therefore totaled 8,418. This fact, though incompatible with the thesis of extermination at Chełmno, fits perfectly with the thesis of transfer to the east. The evacuation lists in fact demonstrate indisputably that the deportations took place by family. The undated first list has 710

[103] "*Aufteilung der Getto-Bevölkerung per 1. März 1944*." APL, PSZ, 184, p. 13.

people, including 26 families consisting of five to eight members.[104] For example, the Januszewicz family consisted of Chana (1906), Mordka (1931), Małka (1933), Ester Bajla (1936), Abram (1934), Liba (1939) and Leew (1941);[105] the Beremblum family of Száma (1903), Sura (1909), Irena (1906), Beresz (1927), Mendel (1926), Abram Icek (1928), Roza (1911), and Luzer (1936);[106] the Wołch family of Kraut (1900), Sara (1897), Machla (1929), Perla (1930), Esther Gitla (1932) and Nechem (1939).[107]

Another 24 families had 4 members, 38 had 3.

The undated list no. 14 contains 586 persons, including 28 families from five to eight members, 19 of four members, and 50 of three members.[108] For example, the Piepszynski family consisted of Jadzia (1929), Cerka (1907), Estera (1927), Abram (1937), Rucha (1903), Zlata (1929), Menachem (1931) and Bencjon (1935).[109] The Zalcsztajn family included Szulim (1896), Chaja (1896), Chana (1921), Icek (1922), Rojza (1928), Ita (1934) and Moszek (1937).[110]

List no. 32, also undated, includes 1,000 people, among whom were 45 families consisting of five to seven persons, 45 of four and 62 of three.[111] For example, the Cukier family included Zyskind (1903), Tauba (1903), Dawid (1925), Juda (1927), Szmul (1933), Niece (1935) and Icek (1936),[112] and the Ber family, Idel-Lajb (1909), Masz (1906), the twins Fiszel and Kerszel (1934), Chaim (1939), Moszek (1870) and Perla (1874).[113]

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104 "*Transportliste Evakuierter Juden aus dem Getto Litzmannstadt*. *1. Transport*." APL, PSZ, 1229, pp. 1-25.
105 *Ibid.*, p. 7.
106 *Ibid.*, p. 21.
107 *Ibid.*, S. 9.
108 "*Transportliste Evakuierter Juden aus dem Getto Litzmannstadt. Transport 14*." APL, PSZ, 1229, pp. 272-291.
109 *Ibid.*, p. 281.
110 *Ibid.*, p. 279.
111 "*Transportliste Evakuierter Juden aus dem Getto Litzmannstadt. Transportliste XXXII*." APL, PSZ, 1229, pp. 86-119.
112 *Ibid.*, p. 90.
113 *Ibid.*, p. 92.

12.4. Operations Ceased in 1943 and Resumed in 1944 – Why?

According to the investigations of Judge Bednarz, the first phase of the camp's existence lasted from 8 December 1941 to 7 April 1943 (Bednarz 1946d, p. 7). On this date the camp ceased its alleged extermination operation: the palace was blown up and the crematoria were destroyed. However, as shown in the summary table presented above (bottom of p. 116), the last alleged act of mass murder took place in September 1942, with the result that the camp would be left idle for more than six months. So why was it liquidated only on 7 April 1943?

The reopening of the camp in 1944 is even more incomprehensible. Krakowski writes (1983, p. 136):

> *"In early 1944 the National Socialists decided to resume the extermination activities in Kulmhof due to the impending liquidation of the Łódź ghetto."*

However, after 10 transports allegedly sent to Chełmno, the National Socialists allegedly realized that "Kulmhof's capacity did not suffice for the killing of tens of thousands [of people] in a very short time" (*ibid.*, p. 142). So after a year of operation the SS is said to still have been unfamiliar with Chełmno's extermination capacity?

13. The Alleged Gassings in 1944: Chełmno and Auschwitz[114]

Krakowski quotes a letter from Arthur Greiser to Oswald Pohl dated 14 February 1944 in which, among other things, we read (Krakowski 1983, p. 137):

> *"The reduction will be made by the SS Sonderkommando Hauptsturmführer Bothmann, who has worked previously in the Gau."*

In a telex to Himmler of 9 June 1944, Greiser reported *i.a.* as follows (Rückerl 1979, p. 284):

> *"Since I have finished the preparations for the ghetto's evacuation and as I have carried out the first evacuations of the same,…"*

Rückerl comments (*ibid.*, p. 284, note 83):

> *"Greiser's statement that the evacuation had already started in early June seems to have been a mere demonstration intended to express the urgency of his request. From other sources it can be inferred that the transports from Łódź to Chełmno started only at the end of June 1944."*

In fact, the "reduction" of the ghetto had already begun three months earlier with two transports that departed on 4 and 16 March 1944, one with 750 people and the other with 850.[115] As we learn from Eisenbach on the basis of documents kept in the Archives of the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw, these 1,600 Jews were sent to the arms factories in Skarżysko-Kamienna, a town about 45 km south-west of Radom (Eisenbach 1961, p. 568). This is confirmed by Krakowski (2007, p. 136). In this regard, there is also an essay by Hans Biebow of 18 March 1944 on the subject of "Transfer of 1,500 Jews to the General Government" (*Überführung von 1500 Juden in das Generalgouvernement*; Jüdisches Historisches… 1960, p. 461).

The transport list of 4 May was accompanied by a note saying:[116]

> *"Attached the C.P.* [=Central Prison] *sends a list of persons who have left the C.P. on 4 March of this year for work outside the ghetto."*

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[114] This is a summary of my study Mattogno 2003.
[115] APL, PSZ, 1223, pp. 60-73 and 14-59 (list of names of transport).
[116] APL, PSZ, 1223, p. 74.

And the transport list of 16 March has this heading: "For work on 16 March 1944 from Litzmannstadt-Ghetto" (*Zur Arbeit am 16. März 1944 aus Litzmannstadt Ghetto).*[117]

In May there were other small transports of Jews "moved out for work outside the ghetto" (*zur Arbeit ausserhalb des Ghettos abgereist*), for example: 90 on day 4; 50 on day 17; 30 on day 27; 60 on day 30.[118] The bulk of transports, however, began on 23 June. The Łódź State Archives has preserved lists of names from ten Jewish transports – men and women – who left the Łódź ghetto between 23 June and 14 July 1944[119] according to the following table:

TRANSPORT	DATE	NUMBER OF DEPORTEES
1	23 June 1944	562
2	26 June 1944	912
3	28 June 1944	799
4	30 June 1944	700
5	3 July 1944	699
6	5 July 1944	699
7	7 July 1944	700
8	10 July 1944	700
9	12 July 1944	700
10	14 July 1944	699
	Total	*7,170*

These lists also bear the heading "*zur Arbeit ausserhalb des Ghettos ausgereist*" – moved out for work outside the ghetto.

The verdict of the Bonn Jury Court states in this regard (Rüter *et al.* 1979, p. 286):

> *"The statistical lists mentioned do not expressly state that these transports left for Chełmno instead of for Auschwitz, for example, as they did starting in August 1944. But this derives from the credible affirmations of the witness Z., who came to Chełmno with the 7th or 8th transport and who has given the total number of all transports carried out to Chełmno as 10 to 12. The Jury Court is therefore convinced that the ten transports mentioned went to Chełmno and that therefore at least 7,000 Jewish persons were killed in Chełmno during the camp's second phase."*

[117] APL, PSZ, 1223, p. 14.
[118] APL, PSZ, 1223, pp. 10-16,
[119] APL, PSZ, 1309, pp. 1-225.

"Witness Z" was Żurawski, and the Jury Court recklessly based the conviction for exterminating 7,000 Jews at Chełmno on a single, moreover extremely dubious, witness!

There is in fact not the least indication that the 10 transports were sent to Chełmno, and this is so evident that even Eisenbach wrote in his famous documentary collection on the Łódź ghetto, with reference to the evacuation of the ghetto (Eisenbach 1946, p. 265):

> *"The Chełmno camp had already been dissolved* [in the summer of 1944]*, and therefore the Jews were sent to Auschwitz and other camps."*

In this context, he mentioned the first three transports of the table which I quoted above (*ibid.*). It is therefore clear that he, who had studied the documents available to the Central Jewish Historical Commission (including witnesses), did not have even the slightest hint indicating that the 10 above-mentioned Jewish transports were sent to Chełmno.

Let us return to the 7,170 Jews transferred between 23 June and 14 July 1944. The lists of names are of fundamental importance in order to understand whether these Jews were actually deported "for work." In these lists, in fact, we have the dates of birth for 6,763 individuals, ranging from 6 to 70 years old, although such extreme ages are exceptions: there are only 3 children aged 6 years, 4 aged 7 years, 7 aged 8 years, 8 aged 9 years and 9 aged 10 years. In the same way, the lists contain only one person each of the ages 70, 69 and 66 years, 2 of 65 years, 6 of 64 years, 2 of 63 years, 7 of 62 years, 4 of 61 years and 17 of 60 years. The age distribution of the deportees is shown in the following table:

AGE RANGE	DEPORTEES	AGE RANGE	DEPORTEES
≤ 8	14	31 – 40	1,338
9 – 14	181	41 – 50	915
15 – 20	1,660	51 – 60	341
21 – 30	2,290	61 – 70	24
		Total	*6,763*

It is therefore evident that the vast majority of the deportees were people capable of work, most of whom had actually worked in various facilities in the ghetto. Numerous documents attest that, on the day of deportation, the ghetto administration regularly communicated to individual companies that they had lost the labor of the transferred Jews

who had worked there.[120] However, in the hypothetical case of a policy of extermination of Jews unable to work, it would be stupid to exterminate all 7,170 Jews, most of whom were perfectly capable of work. It would have been more logical instead to send to the alleged extermination camp at Chełmno those unable to work, *i.e.* the 4,495 children under ten years old and the 392 people over 70 who were still in the ghetto on 1 March 1944.

Another important fact helps us to understand why the transports also included small children: even in this case the deportees were not selected by age – at least not only by age – but by family, as is clear from the names and addresses of the deportees. For example, one of three six-year-old children, Johanna Dahl, born in 1938, was deported with the third transport along with Greta Dahl, born in 1912, presumably the mother: both had the same address, Krater 25.[121] The second child born in 1938, Dora Gerstel, was deported with the second carriage along with Edith Gerstel, born in 1904; both had lived at Siegfried 14.[122] The third six-year-old child, Moniek Sztycki, was deported in the fourth transport along with Gela Sztycka, born in 1900, who had too lived at Hohensteiner 13.[123]

In conclusion, the 10 above-mentioned transports of Jews were not sent to be gassed at Chełmno, but to concentration camps "for work."

This also follows from the "Chronicle of the Łódź Ghetto." On 16 July 1944 it stated (Krakowski 2007, p. 140):

> *"In fact this is not about an evacuation of merely 500 people which had to be concealed as a voluntary recruitment, but about numerous work consignments outside the ghetto. It is said that first of all the first group of about 500 people is bound for Munich, where they must perform clearance work* [of air-raid rubble]. *The same week, probably 23 Friday of this month, another group of about 900 people has to leave. Then for three weeks 3,000 people have to leave in transports of 1,000 people each. For each transport, a head of transport, two doctors, medical personnel and security services have to be appointed. The latter may not be formed by the ghetto's security services, but be taken from the same transport. We do not know where the large groups are headed. Even for these large transports*

[120] APL, PSZ, 1302 (lists of names).
[121] APL, PSZ, 1309, p. 58, nos. 136 & 137 of the list.
[122] APL, PSZ, 1309, p. 70, nos. 223 & 224 of the list.
[123] APL, PSZ, 1309, p. 201, nos. 589 & 590 of the list.

> *the same transport rules apply which are referred to in the above-mentioned notice. 15-20 kg of luggage may be brought along, but this baggage has to take up as little space as possible."*

An annotation a little later, dated 26 July, said:[124]

> *"Today came the first news from the ghetto people who left the ghetto for work during the last evacuation. 31 postcards arrived, all of which had been postmarked on 19 July 1944. From these cards it fortunately results that the people are well and above all that the families are together. One postcard says in simple Yiddish words: 'We laugh about your soup!' They are happy in the ghetto and hopeful that they will soon receive similar reports from other evacuees. It is therefore confirmed that the labor columns have actually been employed in the Altreich. We remember that before the departure of the first carriage it was said that they had to go to Munich. One group has probably arrived there. Also note that, as evidenced by the news, the people are housed in comfortable cabins."*

One final observation: As we have seen above, according to orthodox historiography, the SS used the term *Evakuierung* (evacuation) in order to camouflage the transfer of Jews to Chełmno for homicidal purposes. In the "Chronicle of the Łódź Ghetto" the participle *wysiedlono* = "displaced, evacuated" is used,[125] which translates into German as *Ausgesiedelte*.[126] But here those allegedly gassed in 1944 are no longer referred to as *evakuiert* or *ausgesiedelt* but instead as "*zur Arbeit aus Litzmannstadt-Getto ausgereist"* – moved out of the Łódź ghetto for work. Do we find ourselves faced with an "encrypted" term for murder within an encrypted expression, a kind of double encryption? Who can seriously believe such a thing?

The confirmation of the above conclusions is offered to us specifically by the deportation of the remaining Jews of the Łódź ghetto to Auschwitz. In this regard, Krakowski says (1983, p. 142):

> *"In August 1944 the Lodz ghetto was liquidated within three weeks; the 70,000 Jews there were deported to Auschwitz to be gassed. Kulmhof's capacity did not suffice for the killing of tens of thousands* [of people] *in a very short time."*

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[124] Hoffmann 2008, p. 226. The author claims that the cards in question were written in Chełmno, but this is only an unproven conjecture.
[125] Dąbrowska/Dobroszycki 1965, vol. I, p. 495 & passim.
[126] *Ibid.*, vol. II, p. 477 & passim.

In fact, of the 65,000 Jews (maximum figure) deported in August 1944 from the Łódź ghetto, no more than 22,500 were sent to Auschwitz, of whom about 11,500 were then transferred from Auschwitz to Stutthof. Included in the transport of 3 September 1944 were also some forty children from 6 months to 14 years, who should have ended up in the "gas chambers" at Auschwitz, if orthodox "logic" had its way, but who were instead transferred with their mothers to Stutthof and properly registered there (see Documents 15, 15a, and Table 3, p. 149).

The two brothers Michael Salomonowicz (born 6 Oct. 1933, no. 1653 on transport list, registered at Stutthof with the number 83620) and Josef (born 1 July 1938, numbers 1654 and 83621 as above) traveled with their mother Dora Salomonowicz, born 28 August 1904, number 1652 on the transport list, registered under number 83619 at Stutthof. All three came from the Łódź ghetto, whither they had been deported on 3 November 1941, and all three survived the war (Terezínská Iniziativa 1995, vol. I, p. 138).[127] Michael and Josef therefore were 8 and 3 years old, respectively, when they were deported to Łódź, yet in spite of this they survived both the selection for alleged extermination at Chełmno and the selection for the claimed extermination at Auschwitz!

There is no doubt that the remaining children also came from Łódź. The transfer of these children shows that among the Jews of the Łódź ghetto there was no selection for the alleged gas chambers, otherwise how would they have remained alive?

Of about 11,000 male Jews deported to Auschwitz from the Łódź ghetto, around 3,100 were registered. The fates of the remaining 7,900 are not documented. Yet although their alleged gassing as unable to work cannot be ruled out *a priori*, in such a case the question would arise again, why the children mentioned above would have been left alive? The adults, like all non-registered Jews, were probably sent to the Birkenau *Durchgangslager* (transit camp), and from there they were probably transferred to other concentration camps.

As I noted above, on 1 March 1944 there were in the Łódź ghetto 4,495 children under 8 years old and 392 persons older than 70 years. In the 10 Jewish transports from the ghetto between 23 June and 14 July 1944 there were 14 children up to 8 years old and no persons over 70 years old. Since the 1,600 Jews moved from the ghetto in March 1944

[127] Interesting that all three appear in the Yad Vashem "Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names"!

were all able to work, being aged (with some exceptions)[128] between 18 and 45, it follows that the 65,000 Jews moved out of the ghetto in August 1944 included more than 4,800 inmates unable to work who were not gassed either at Auschwitz or elsewhere.

And if, as claimed by Krakowski, "Kulmhof's capacity did not suffice for the killing of tens of thousands [of people] in a very short time" (1983, p. 142), why would the alleged extermination camp at Chełmno have been reactivated, since the alleged extermination camp at Auschwitz was available?

On 15 August 1944 the head of *Amtsgruppe DIV (KL-Verwaltung*[129]*)* of the *WVHA*, SS *Sturmbannführer* Burger, sent to the head of *Amtsgruppe B*, SS *Gruppenführer* Lörner, a letter relating to a "*Häftlingsmeldung*" (communication concerning prisoners) and "*Häftlingsbekleidung* (clothing for prisoners). This says that on 1 August 1944 the population of the concentration camps was 379,167 male and 145,119 female prisoners, to whom were added "*angekündigte Neuzugänge*" (announced new arrivals). Among them are 60,000 prisoners "*aus Litzmannstadt (Polizeigefängnis und Getto*)" – from Łódź (police and ghetto prisoners). The list of "*Neuzugänge*" (new arrivals), 612,000 prisoners altogether, was closed with the following comment:[130]

> *"A major part of the inmates is already en route and will arrive in the concentration camps during the next days."*

Burger stated that there was not enough clothing for 612,000 new prisoners on arrival and therefore requested the allocation of "special textile quotas." The *Amt DIV/4* was indeed responsible for clothing (*Bekleidung*), so the *WVHA* genuinely expected these prisoners to arrive in the concentration camps and to be in need of proper clothes – a need which executees do not have. Therefore, also the 60,000 Jews from Łódź were expected to stay alive and be in need of clothing, whose evacuation to the concentration camps had already been under way for several days.

This document shows the claim to be historically unfounded that the Jews from the Łódź ghetto were sent to Auschwitz in order to be gassed there.

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128 Two inmates of 17 years, two of 16 and one of 49.
129 Office group D IV (administration of the concentration camps).
130 PS-1166.

14. The Alleged Murder of Gypsies and the Children of Lidice

14.1. The Gypsies

In his report of 7 January 1946 Judge Bednarz wrote that the Germans had killed 5,000 Gypsies at Chełmno, among others (1946d, p. 2). This information was immediately transformed into a certain historical fact and as such was accepted even by the Jury Court in Bonn (Rüter *et al.* 1979, p. 284):

> *"To this total figure some 5,000 Gypsies have to be added which, according to the credible statements by witness G. (at that time active as the deputy of the Eldest of the Jews in the administration of the Łódź ghettos) and Fuchs (at that time police detective at the State Police Department Łódź), were evacuated from the Łódź ghettos and killed in Chełmno."*

Documentary information about the fate of the Gypsies in the Łódź ghetto is very limited. Anton Galiński informs us that the first transport of Gypsies – 1,000 people – came from Hartberg to Łódź on 5 November 1941, followed by three more transports of also 1,000 persons each: on the 6th from Fürstenfeld, on the 7th from Mattesburg and on the 8th from Rotenturm. The last transport of 1,007 individuals arrived on the 9th from Oberwart. These 5,007 Gypsies consisted of 1,130 men, 1,188 women and 2,689 children (Galiński 1995, p. 76). On the 4th or 5th of November 1941 the first cases occurred of what soon became a terrible typhus epidemic, which eventually led to the liquidation of the Gypsy Camp (*ibid.*, p. 78). In this respect Galiński writes (*ibid.*):

> *"In the absence of documents it is impossible to establish reliable data on the final liquidation of the Gypsies in the Łódź camp* [i.e. the Gypsy Camp in Łódź]. *The apex of their deportation to the extermination camp Chełmno upon Ner falls in the period between 5 and 12 January 1942. This can be seen from invoices issued by the ghetto administration for the rental of trucks needed by the Gypsy Camp. This is also confirmed by the Jew 'Szlamek' who escaped from the Chełmno killing center."*

In reality no document records that the Gypsies were transported to Chełmno. The "Chronicle of the Łódź Ghetto" provides the following

information on the fate of the Gypsy Camp. The bulletin of 1-5 December 1942 reads (Dąbrowska/Dobroszycki 1965, vol. I, p. 361):

> *"Mortality in 'Gypsy Camp.' Prior to the camp's liquidation.*
> *According to the data of the local funeral section, which, as the bulletin of the first day of last month noted, undertakes the burials of the dead from the 'Gypsy Camp' in the area allotted to the Jewish cemetery, during the month of December* [1941] *400 people were buried in this area (previously, since arrival* [of the Gypsies]*, 213), which is twice the deaths which had occurred among the 250,000 Jews who lived in Łódź before the war. Due to a typhus epidemic raging in the camp area, the funeral section put in place special measures of precaution. Ultimately the dead 'Gypsies' are brought to the cemetery not in hearses, but with a special vehicle built for this purpose, closed with boards and covered with a tarpaulin. For the transportation of corpses special containers are used as well. On this occasion it is worth noting that even an undertaker has fallen victim to his profession, a certain Boms who used to transport the corpses from the camp. As in the doctors' cases, he had probably been infected with typhus. Fortunately, however, a tragic end was avoided, as it had happened to a doctor and an official of the criminal investigation department. After several weeks of treatment, Boms recovered from the infectious disease and left the hospital on the 2nd of December. As affirmed by the inhabitants of the camp's immediate vicitnity, for 10 days the 'Gypsies' have been taken away by truck. This camp will have been completely cleared by the end of this week; that is absolutely certain. Already now the camp is almost uninhabited. The liquidation of the camp was probably dictated by the necessity to obviate the danger of the typhus contagion."*

The bulletin of 1 December 1941 reports that the Gypsies, numbering some 5,000, had arrived in Łódź on 8 November 1941, it and confirms the figure of 213 deaths. Therefore the liquidation of the camp took place in early January 1942.[131] This is indirectly confirmed by a letter with the heading "The Mayor of Litzmannstadt" (*Der Oberbürgermeister von Litzmannstadt*) dated 14 January 1942, which ordered:[132]

[131] The bulletin says that between 1 and 5 January 1942 the Gypsy Camp was liquidated with absolute certainty "by the end of this week," *i.e.* the week ending Sunday, 4 January.

[132] APL, PSZ, 110, p. 20.

> *"The former Gypsy Camp has been put under quarantine until 18 Feb. 1942. Hence I prohibit herewith any access to this area."*

A previous letter, sent 5 December 1941 by Chaim Rumkowski of the ghetto administration, with the topic "Gypsy Camp – typhus" (*Zigeunerlager – Fleckfieber*), proposed implementing prophylactic measures against the spread of disease:[133]

> *"After conferring with my physicians I may suggest to you the following in the above matter:*
> *In order to prevent a transfer of the typhus diseases detected in the Gypsy Camp to Litzmannstadt and the ghetto, the following might be suggested or recommended:*
> *1. The installation of a bathing facility in the Gypsy Camp with at least ten showers.*
> *2. Establishing a permanent disinfector.*
> *3. It is necessary that the Gypsy corpses are undressed, washed, shorn, shaved and if possible placed in boxes or paper bags prior to being brought to the Jewish corpse cart.*
> *4. The danger of an infection/body louse/ is reduced to a minimum, if each Gypsy is bathed and moreover his clothes are disinfected accordingly before getting in touch with German authorities or with the ghetto's health-care staff."*

On the other hand, already on 12 November 1941 "the Mayor of Litzmannstadt" had ordered several measures to improve the Gypsy Camp, which included a hospital system and latrines, upgrading the kitchen and the construction of a disinfestation plant.[134] Therefore the liquidation of the Gypsy Camp was not premeditated, but due to the typhus epidemic which had broken out.

Whither were the Gypsies evacuated? No known document answers this question. The claim that they were transferred to Chełmno is based almost exclusively on the "Szlamek" Report. Even more explicitly than Galiński, Gulczyński admits (1995, p. 39, note 30):

> *"The information on the topic of the Gypsies can be found in reports of fugitives from the camp, for example AŻIH* [archive of the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw], *ring* [archive Ringelblum] *I, no. 412 (Szlamek report). This report has been published in: R. Sakowska…"*[135]

[133] APL, PSZ, 110, p. 42.
[134] APL, PSZ, 110, pp. 67-69.
[135] The reference is to the Polish edition of Sakowska's book (1993).

In Chapter 6 we have seen, however, that the "Szlamek" Report is totally unreliable. Not only that, but it does not justify the claim of the total extermination of the Gypsies of Łódź. In fact it contains only two references to gassing of Gypsies:

– on 8 January 1942: 7 "vehicles" (that is "gas vans")
– on 9 January 1942: 8 or 9 "vehicles."

Since each vehicle is said to have contained 60 people according to this witness, the total number of gassing victims would be at most [(7+9)×60=] 960 people.

On the other hand, as we have seen above, according to Galiński the extermination of Gypsies took place between 5 and 12 January 1942, but for the 5th, 6th and 7th "Szlamek" does not mention any gassings, and for the 10th, 11th and 12th it claims only two gassings of Jews from Kłodawa (7 "vehicles" on the 10th and 9 on the 12th), followed by a day of "repose" (11 January). However, 4,365 persons were transferred from the Gypsy Camp in Łódź,[136] while merely 960 are said to have been gassed according to the "Szlamek" Report. What then happened to the remaining 3,405?

14.2. The Children of Lidice

The story of the children of Lidice is even more nebulous. It was born from the usual rumors collected by Bednarz in the course of his preliminary investigation, but they did not relate at all to the children of Lidice (Bednarz 1946d, p. 3):

> *"In 1943 four trucks arrived at the camp with children aged from 12 to 14 years (no Jewish star). The witnesses are of the opinion that they were 'Aryan' children. This happened at a time when the German government drove out the Polish population from Zamość, regularly separating the children from their parents."*

Hence according to Judge Bednarz, the children who allegedly arrived at Chełmno in 1943 were Polish. In the following years, these alleged Polish children were transformed into (Czech) children of Lidice, but there is still confusion about this in orthodox Holocaust literature. The Polish historian Marek Budziarek writes about it (1995, p. 71):

[136] Of the 5,007 Gypsies admitted to the ghetto, 213 died in November 1941, 400 in December 1941, and 29 during the first two days of January 1942.

"Based on collected archival materials we can now say with certainty that in the summer of 1942 a transport of 88 Czech children (aged between 1 and 14 years) from Lidice and Lezak in Czechoslovakia arrived in the transfer camp, which was located in an old dormitory house of the Albertine Nunnery in Gneisenaustrasse 32 (currently 28 Infantry Regiment Kaniowski). A few days later another 12 children arrived."

Seven of these 100 children were Germanized. About the remaining 93, Budziarek claims that they were subject to "special treatment," then adds (*ibid.*):

"We do not know the final decision of the Hitlerite authorities regarding the last moments of the lives of these small Czechs. However, it can be said with great probability that they were killed at Chełmno upon Ner. This probability was confirmed by the verdict of the Bonn Jury Court (27 [recte: 23] *July 1965),*[137] *which sentenced former SS officers of the Chełmno extermination center. It clearly states that 'a transport of about 50-75 children aged 4 to 14 years" arrived at the camp.' If they came to Chełmno, they were undoubtedly killed."*

In fact, in relation to 50-75 children, the verdict of the first instance (30 March 1963) states:

"Different than the usual transports of Jewish persons were in addition a transport of some 50-75 children aged 4 to 10, who were better dressed and fed than the Jewish children, […]*"* (Rüter *et al.* 1979, p. 281)

The verdict of the later retrial states tersely (*ibid.*, p. 233):

"Moreover a transport of some 50-75 children aged 4-14 years arrived,…"

Hence, the verdicts handed down by the Bonn Jury Court make no statements at all about the children's provenance. The word "Lidice" does not appear anywhere in either verdict.

Rückerl commented (1979, pp. 280f., note 76):

"According to Polish research, this transport of children had to be children from the Czech village of Lidice who could not be 'Germanized' and whose relatives were killed or deported in retaliation for the attack on Heydrich. In an investigation of the public prosecutor in Frankfurt against the former head of the emigration center in

[137] The retrial took place between 5 and 23 July 1965.

> *Łódź, SS Sturmbannführer Krumey, a number of reference points turned up for the accuracy of this hypothesis. But so far no certain proof could be developed."*

In reality there is no evidence either that these children were deported to Chełmno: this story, dogmatically accepted as "likely" or "certain" by historians and the courts, is nothing more than the last echo of the rumors collected at the end of 1945 by Judge Bednarz, which, as I may stress once more, related to *Polish* children sent to the camp in 1943, not to *Czech* children of Lidice sent to Chełmno in the summer of 1942!

Krakowski writes nevertheless (2007, p. 122):

> *"As for the Czech children, there are documents that prove their deaths at Chełmno. Their fate is referred to in an exchange of letters between the Reich and its representation in Łódź. In one of these letters, dated 12 June 1942, it announces its intention to send 86 Czech children to Łódź who could not be "Germanized." The camp's staff members Fritz Ismer and Walter Burmeister, in their statements before the German court, also mention the arrival of three truckloads of non-Jewish children."*

Hence this is not based on documents, but on simple testimonies of the 1960s which inevitably reflected this propaganda theme developed during the preceding years.

A final observation. As seen above, the children of Lidice allegedly transferred to the Łódź ghetto numbered 100, of whom 7 were Germanized. Gulczyński published a list of 82 names of children with the following heading in Czech:[138]

> *"Children of Lidice who did not return, probably* [*pravděpodobně*] *gassed – transported to Poland, to Łódź."*

Hence here no certainty either. In a pamphlet representing an update to Bednarz's booklet, Edward Serwański claims as well that the alleged event occurred "very likely" (Serwański 1964, p. 31), which is an elegant way of masking the total lack of documentary evidence.

I must add that, if these 82 children "did not return" while the remaining 18 "returned," but only 7 were Germanized, how can we explain the survival of the other 11? Did they survive their gassing?

In conclusion, the story about the gassing of the children of Lidice at Chełmno has no historical basis either.

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[138] Gulczyński 1991, appendix outside of text. The respective list originates from the Museum of Martyrs in Lidice (Gulczyński 1995, p. 41, note 66).

15. The Destination of the Deported Jews

Reitlinger reports that some Jews who had been deported to Łódź were transferred to an unknown destination with minimal luggage. From a letter of Rosenberg's office of 25 October 1941 we can glean that it was planned to use a greater number of Jews fit for labor for work in the rear of the Eastern Front (Reitlinger 1965, p. 115):

> *"Subsequently rumors had it that the Jews would be transferred from Łódź to the reclamation areas of the Pripyat marshes and the Jewish agricultural colonies near Krivoi Rog, Ukraine."*

In a clandestine report entitled "Mass Executions of Jews in the Koło District" of 25 March 1942 one reads:[139]

> *"Officially the purpose of this deportation is not revealed to the deportees, but in private the Germans have launched a different version: a center for the entire district will set up at Chełmno, which will be one stage of the transfer into the region of Pinsk or to Galicia."*

A report by the *Oyneg Shabbos* shortly thereafter stated (Sakowska 1993, p. 186):

> *"In the second half of November 1941 the news spread in the cities of the Koło district (Warthbrücken district) that the entire Jewish population of this area had to be transferred to the region of Pinsk or to eastern Galicia."*

In 1943 the Canadian demographer Eugene M. Kulischer mentioned the swamps of Pinsk (in the Pripyat) among the destinations of the Jewish deportations (Kulischer 1943, pp. 110f.):

> *"Since the summer of 1942 the ghettos and labour camps in the German-occupied Eastern Territories have become the destination of deportees both from Poland and from western and central Europe; in particular, a new large-scale transfer from the Warsaw ghetto has been reported. Many of the deportees have been sent to the labour camps on the Russian front; others to work in the marshes of Pinsk, or to the ghettos of the Baltic countries, Byelorussia and Ukraine."*

[139] Report entitled "Masowe egzekucje Żydów w pow. Kolskim" (Mass Execution of Jews in the Koło District) of 25 March 1942. Maria Tyszkowa 1992b, p. 52. The report was published in 1943 in: Apenszlak 1943, pp. 115-118.

As Aly has documented, draining the marshes of Pripyat was a project that the German administration had begun to seriously discuss in April/May 1941 (Aly 1995, pp. 275-279; see Chapter 1). Thomas Sandkühler confirmed (1996, pp. 110f.):

> *"Rosenberg's first position pager on the Soviet Union of 2 April* [1941] *shows that the Pripyat marshes were already under discussion in the spring of 1941.* [...] *Perhaps it was intended to concentrate the Jews of the General Government temporarily in eastern Galicia, and then push them into the swamps of Pripyat."*

The "Chronicle of the Łódź ghetto" contains several clues in favor of this plan. The report no. 6 of 10-13 January 1942 shows the first anticipation of the future evacuations (Dąbrowska/Dobroszycki 1965, vol. I, p. 385):

> *"The transports will comprise 700 people per day. The evacuees may carry with them baggage of 12.5 kg per person. All money possessed by the expellees must be changed to German marks at the assembly point."*

The "selection" criterion for the deportees, as we have seen above, was inability to work: Jews unable to work had to be transferred from the ghetto to make room for newcomers fit for work. But the bulletin no. 7 of 14-31 January 1942 describes the procedure as follows (*ibid.*, p. 392):

> *"The evacuees received their deportation orders in the mail, which called on all the individuals specified (as is known, during the entire period established for the deportation all family members are being evacuated, in certain cases even together with other resident persons* [in the same premises] *who were not part of the family) to report on the indicated day – more or less within three days after delivery of the order – at the meeting place, organized in no. 7 Szklane Road."*

So the policy of deportation essentially concerned families and households, rather than those unable to work, and extant evacuation name lists fully confirm this. The same report states that the deportation train consisted of 20 passenger coaches with 55 people per wagon (*ibid.*, p. 393).

The bulletin no. 14 of 10 to 14 April reported as follows about the first news from the deportees (*ibid.*, pp. 457f.):

> *"On 12 April, at Balucki Square, a senior officer of the Secret Police stopped briefly who was the head of the camp in which the deportees*

> *from the ghetto were. This is the first reliable source of information about the deportees; to be exact, it is worth adding that the version most persistently spread about* [their] *whereabouts has been confirmed this time. Hence it has now been irrefutably established that the camp is located in the outskirts of the town of Koło, now called Warthbrücken. The camp contains 100,000 Jews, and from this it can be concluded that in addition to the 44,000 deported from the ghetto, Jews from other cities were concentrated as well. Earlier this huge camp had been the place of residence of Germans of Volhynia. Apparently 30,000 people used to live there. They left decently housed barracks and even furniture at the disposal of the Jews. The provisioning of the camp, it seems, is exemplary: those able to work are employed within the camp, for road repairs and for agricultural labor. In the near future workshops will be organized."*

The bulletin no. 24 of 1-3 May 1942 states (*ibid.,* p. 497):

> *"In the ghetto the word goes around persistently that the first two transports of evacuees were directed to occupied France, the other to Bessarabia."*

The bulletin no. 25 of 5 May 1942 informs that the first two transports of western Jews from the ghetto included "even physicians and health-care staff" (*ibid.,* p. 504).

Jews from Łódź were also sent to the Baltic countries. Herman Kruk, a Polish Jew who fled to Vilnius in 1939 and subsequently became a resident of the local ghetto, wrote in his diary on 4 July 1942 (Kruk 2002, p. 319):

> *"Now I learn from two young people who were taken out of the Łódź Ghetto in March that Łódź has a ghetto. There is no shooting, and mass executions are unknown. The only thing is, people are taken off to work. They figure that about 10,000 Jews have recently been sent out of Łódź.* […] *Both of the young men escaped from such a group* [of workers], *and after a week of wandering, they were arrested in Vilna* [and taken to] *Lukiszki* [a prison] *and were released from there only two days ago. Here in the ghetto they were clothed, and soon they will be sent to forest work."*

On the same note, he added:

> *"Just received a message from Łódź. For us, Łódź is one of those cities from which you can obtain almost no information. Of course,*

the rumors from there are crazy and wild, and according to them, it is already certain that there are no Jews in Łódź.

[…] *Now the young people know what it is to be sent out to work. They are dragged around from place to place; they don't know where they are or what they are doing. From time to time, groups are pulled out and disappear, and they assume that they are shot."*

Avraham Tory, another Jew who lived in the ghetto of Kaunas (Kovno) and who kept a diary, wrote on 14 July 1942 (Tory 1990, p. 111):

"Four Jews from Łódź have been brought to the [Kovno] *Ghetto hospital for surgery. They had spent a long time in a labor camp."*

And on 30 July he noted (*ibid.*, p. 116):

"The Łódź Jews who had been employed at the construction of the Kovno-Vilna highway and were transferred to Riga will be replaced by 500 workers from the [Kovno] *Ghetto."*

In two long reports of 25 and 27 May 1942 addressed to Palestinian Jewish institutions, the Zionist delegate Meleh "Noi" Neustadt confirmed (Laqueur 1982, pp. 188f.):

"Lodz was more or less cut off from the outside world. There was no direct contact but it had been learned that 'unproductive elements' had been deported from Lodz to Minsk, Kovno and Riga."

On the other hand, there is also a letter to the Gestapo in Łódź dated 11 May 1942 which reads:

"Re.: Delivery of iron material to the Sonderkommando K.

I have brought the following delivery to the Sonderkommando and request to hand back to me the necessary iron bills."

Among the materials listed there was "1 complete disinfection oven with chimney 2,050 kg" (*1. kompl. Desinfektionsofen m. Schornstein 2.050 kg*).[140]

The camp had to be much greater than what orthodox Holocaust historiography claims, because already on 27 May 1942 it had 370 railway cars full of clothing:[141]

"At the Sonderkommando Lange an estimated 370 railway cars with garments are stored, for the removal of which some 900 trucks with trailers are necessary […]*"*

140 T-1298. Cf. State of Israel 1993, vol. III, p. 1202.

141 Letter by Otto Luchterhandt, Deputy Head of the Łódź ghetto, to the *Landeswirtschaftsamt* Posen dated 27 May 1942, in: Eisenbach 1946, p. 233.

According to the data claimed by orthodox Holocaust historiography, 79,000 people had been evacuated to Chełmno by May 1942, each of whom was allowed to take along 12.5 kg of luggage in addition to the clothes they wore. This luggage consisted certainly not just of clothes. To have a reference point, 97,000 full sets of clothes for men without underwear, 76,000 equivalent sets for women and 89,000 pieces of silk underwear filled 34 railway cars; 2,700,000 kg of rags in turn filled 400 railway cars.[142]

Based on the latter figure, 340 railway cars would have contained 2,295,000 kg of clothing, so that each deportee would have to have brought along 29 kg of clothing on average! The first figure shows, however, that 76,000 full sets of female clothing occupy less than 34 carriages. Hence it is obvious that the 340 wagons of clothing could not have belonged merely to the evacuated Jews, but must have come mainly from the clearing of all the ghettos in the Warthegau. As of 23 March 1942, all the property of the deported Jews became the property of the ghetto administration:

> *"According to the directive of 23 March 1942 by the governor, all valuables such as money, foreign currencies, household goods, merchandise, which are the property of resettled Jews, become the property of the ghetto administration in Litzmannstadt."*

Among these goods were also "fabrics, leather and other raw materials of all types" (*Textilien, Leder und sonstige Rohmaterialen aller Art*; Eisenbach 1946, p. 209). It is clear that almost 2,300 tons of clothing could not be stored in the so-called "palace" or "castle" of Chełmno.[143] Hence they had to be stored in storage barracks in the camp. And this certainly was the camp's secondary function.

But the Chełmno camp's main function must be considered in relation to the National Socialist policy of deporting the Jews to the east as I have outlined in Chapter 1, including the letter from Himmler to Greiser of 18 September 1941. In this letter, as we have seen, Hitler ordered the transfer of Jews from the Reich proper and the Protectorate to Łódź

[142] NO-1257, "*Aufstellung über von den Lagern Lublin und Auschwitz auf Anordnung des SS Wirtschafts-Verwaltungshauptamts abgelieferten Mengen an Textil-Altmaterial*," 6 February 1943.

[143] In the Polish drawing of this area (see Document 16) no. 11 stands for "Piles of clothing 1941-1943 (15×5×4), and in the years 1944-1945 two sorting barracks and a clothes-disinfestation truck." The volume of the dimensions given is 300 cubic meters, but 340 railway cars full of clothing corresponds to more than 21,000 cubic meters.

as a provisional stage of their subsequent deportation to the eastern territories. In this context Chełmno was therefore a transit camp for the ghetto. The choice of a village west of Łódź is explained by the need to reconcile the demands of confidentiality and logistics: Chełmno is located near the major railway line Poznań-Warsaw-Minsk and in a relatively quiet area.

16. The Value of the Content of the Court Verdict

In the introduction to the present book I posited that the image of Chełmno as outlined by orthodox Holocaust historiography is almost exclusively based on trial evidence and in practice on testimonies. The moment has now come to explain the significance of this evidence.

On 5 July 1962, the Public Prosecution Office at the District Court in Bonn issued an indictment against 13 former members of the "*Sonderkommando* Chełmno." The trial started on 26 November 1962 and unfolded in 36 trial days until 30 March 1963, the day when the verdict was announced, which sentenced six of the defendants to prison terms between 3½ and 15 years for "jointly aiding and abetting in murder (mass murder)." The case against one defendant was vacated due to his deteriorated health, and with respect to six other defendants, although also found guilty of the same offense, the court abstained from meting out a punishment for a number of mitigating circumstances.

Since the appeal of this verdict was successful for eleven defendants, their cases were sent back to the Bonn Jury Court for retrial. This began on 5 July 1965 and ended on July 23 after eleven court days. The punishments meted out this time ranged from 13½ months to 13 years' imprisonment for eight of the defendants, while three of them, although found guilty again, once more got away without punishment (Rüter *et al.*, pp. 227f., 271; Rückerl 1979, pp. 248f.; Krakowski 2007, p. 178).

The criminal investigation was started in 1959 with a complaint by the *Landeskriminalamt* of Baden-Württemberg against Kurt Lange. In this document the established "facts" about the Chełmno camp were described thus:[144]

> *"In 1946 a book by the Jewish Historical Commission appeared in Łódź entitled 'Documents and Materials, Vol. I, Camps, which in Chapter VII under the title 'Chełmno' contains a collection of testimonies and documents relating to the construction of the extermination camp and the implementation of the extermination program.* […]
> *The following statements are extracted from this document:*

[144] Landeskriminalamt Baden-Württemberg. Sonderkommission Zentrale Stelle. Strafanzeige gegen Kurt Lange. Ludwigsburg, 13 November 1959; SL, EL317IIIBü2151, pp. 11-14.

....It results from the declaration of Miszczak Andrezej [Andrzej] *that at the end of November 1941 members of the Gestapo arrived at Chełmno and seized and occupied the church, the castle, the parish and many private houses. Some 3 km from Chełmno, between Chełmno and Koło, was an isolated wooded area of about 1 square km. In this area the trees were cut and trenches 6 m wide and adequately deep were excavated. In these pits the execution victims were buried who had been executed at the Chełmno Castle. The executions were carried out against people who had been brought to Chełmno in numerous transports until December 1943. In June 1942 the bodies dumped into mass graves were cremated in two furnaces in the forest. The witness named the plenipotentiary of the Gestapo in Chełmno, Lange, as the person responsible for the crimes. And Bothmann as his successor.*

According to another document, which in said book is referred to merely as number 104, the story of Chełmno is related as follows:

'First of all the Jews of the Koło district were taken out of their homes and transported to Chełmno in trucks. They were told that there would be kind of 'Jewish city' at Chełmno. The entire Jewish population of Koło (2,000 souls) and Dabię (1,000 souls), including infants, children and the frail elderly, as well as the sick and the bedridden, were brought to Chełmno with trucks in groups of 60 people.

The Jewish communities of Kłodawa (1,200 people), Izbica (1,300 people), Bugaj (800 people) and Sompolno (1,000 persons) met the same fate.

Upon the transports' arrival at Chełmno, the newcomers had to leave their luggage in the church located on the left along the main road. About 100 meters away was the Chełmno Castle. Then the transports were brought there. The castle was an old dilapidated house on a plain, the remnants of the castle destroyed during the First World War. In the castle a German SS officer and a civilian of 60 years held a speech to the newcomers. On this occasion it was said to the Jews that they – the Jews – had been brought to Chełmno only in order to be ultimately employed in the ghetto Litzmannstadt, where there were work places and lodgments for their use. At Chełmno a bathing facility had been built where they, the Jews, had to get washed. They would also have to get decontaminated and disinfected. Then those gathered had to undress and go 'to the shower-

room.' In reality they were led through a door onto a ramp from where they were herded into two prepared vehicles. The vehicles had the size of a truck, were gray and sealed hermetically. The back door was locked with an external latch. There were no seats inside. The outer walls were covered with sheet metal, the floor was fitted with small wooden grates covered with straw mats. Under the wooden grates on both sides, the outlets of the gas pipes of about 15 cm were located, covered by a grate. The [gas] *influx pipe was attached to a gas apparatus (*Gasapparate*) in the driver's cabin. Then the vehicles left the castle and drove to a wooded area about 7 km away from the castle, traveling for about 15 minutes. The wooded area was surrounded by armed police. There was a trench 5 meters wide and deep. When no voices could be heard anymore from within the vehicle, the doors were opened and the corpses taken out from the inside. Usually 20-30 gravediggers were in the wooded area and about 30 members of the SS, the police and the Gestapo. The bodies, which still had their normal face color, were then searched for valuables by two civilians. In particular the private parts and the anus were inspected. Then gold teeth were pulled out of the mouths using pliers. Then the corpses were thrown into the pit. Then the vehicle was thoroughly cleaned of dirt and other human excretions and returned to the castle. Every day 6-9 transports of corpses were carried to the wooded area. Each layer of corpses* [in the mass grave] *contained 200 bodies. Soil was thrown on each layer of corpses, and starting on 17 January 1942 chloride was also strewn.*

According to calculations by investigating Judge Wł. Bednarz, who led the investigation in the case of the Chełmno death camp appointed by the Central Commission of Inquiry into German Crimes in Poland, the number of victims of this camp was some 330,000."

The book on which the *Landeskriminalamt* of Baden-Württemberg based his findings on the "history of Chełmno" is the oft-cited *Dokumenty i materiały* (Blumental 1946). It must be pointed out immediately that this work contains only a few German documents, but none of them refers to "construction of the extermination camp and the implementation of the extermination program." And that which is presented as a "document" bearing the number 104 is nothing but the quotation of a propaganda story published in New York in 1943, which I already mentioned in the previous chapter (Note 139, page **Error! Bookmark not defined.**), namely pages 115-118 of Jacob Apenszlak's book *The Black*

Book of Polish Jewry (Blumental 1946, p. 244). Not only that, but this story came in turn from the narrative of “Szlamek”!

The Bonn Chełmno trial was therefore bound to proceed along the lines set by Polish propaganda, which had given this Jewish propaganda a legal look, and the defendants had to comply with it or else risk being sentenced to an even more-severe punishment, had they tried to derail the trial from those tracks.

This explains perfectly the defendants’ “confessions,” who restricted themselves to confirming this propaganda which had been taken as official truth by the court.

The judicial truth is not necessarily the historical truth, and this applies especially to ideological and political trials of this kind.

17. Conclusions

All that is left is to summarize the conclusions arising from this study.

1) The establishment of Chełmno camp fits perfectly into the National Socialist policy of deporting the Jews to the east.

2) No documentary or material trace exists for the use of "gas vans" in this camp. The truck photographed by the Commission of Inquiry into the German crimes in Poland in the courtyard of the Ostrowski factory was used to disinfest clothing or to carry passengers.

3) There is no evidence for the first alleged systematic extermination of Jews in the Warthegau, and no one can specify when or how it was perpetrated.

4) The first witness account about the alleged extermination at Chelmno, the "Szlamek Report," is completely unreliable. Similarly unreliable and even contradictory are the witnesses of the postwar era.

5) Only one cremation furnace has been confirmed archeologically in the Chelmno camp. It would have taken almost nine years to cremate all the bodies of the alleged victims of homicidal gassings in that furnace. There are no material traces of the alleged mass cremation.

6) Rudolf Höss's visit to the "field incinerators *Aktion* Reinhardt" had nothing to do with Chełmno.

7) The camp's claimed death toll number is not based on any documentation. It was set to 1,300,000 by the Commission of Inquiry into the German Crimes in Poland, but later reduced to 340,000 by Judge Bednarz. Polish historiography today assumes a figure of about 152,000 victims, which in practice coincides with the number of Jews who, according to the Korherr Report, were led "through the camps of the Warthegau… 145,301," plus some 7,000 additional victims for the camp's claimed second extermination phase in 1944.

8) The transports of Jews sent to the Łódź ghetto included a high percentage of people unable to work (elderly and children), only some of whom were evacuated to make room for Jews fit for work.

9) The Chełmno camp ceased operations in April 1943, which would be inexplicable if it really had been an extermination camp for the Jews in the Warthegau, especially for the Jews of the Łódź ghetto. This is all the more inexplicable because on 1 March 1944 4,495 children under 8

years of age and 392 elderly persons aged over 70 years were still alive in the ghetto.

10) Even more inexplicable, from the perspective of orthodox Holocaust historiography, is the reopening of the camp in April 1944. The claim that it had to exterminate the Jews of the Łódź ghetto has no documentary support, and there is no evidence that the 10 Jewish transports evacuated from the ghetto "for labor" between June and July 1944 were gassed at, or even went to, Chełmno. In fact, the analysis of name lists of the deportations permits us to rule out this possibility.

11) No documentary evidence exists for the alleged extermination at Chełmno of Gypsies from the Łódź ghetto.

12) No documentary evidence exists either for the alleged extermination at Chełmno of the children of Lidice.

13) The ultimate destiny of the Jews who passed through the Chełmno camp was not the alleged "gas vans," but the region of Pinsk, in particular the area of the Pripyat Marshes, and partly also the Baltic countries.

18. Appendices

18.1. Łódź Ghetto Children Deported from Auschwitz to Stutthof

Table 3: Children of the Łódź Ghetto Present in the Transport of 3 Sept. 1944 from Auschwitz to Stutthof

#	SURNAME	FIRST NAME	BORN	REG.-NO.
1588	Baude	Golda	12 Sept. 1937	83555
1590	Brin	Hala	23 April 1937	83557
1592	Darl	Dina Sissel	30 June 1938	83559
1594	Borenstein	Lotte	14 June 1934	83561
1595	Borenstein	Eva	14 Nov. 1939	83562
1597	Brijmann	Lilianna	14 July 1938	83564
1599	Chimonovits	Josef	22 Nov. 1935	83566
1600	Chimonovits	Mejer	02 Nov. 1936	83567
1601	Chimonovits	Izak	19 Oct. 1943	83568
1603	Chimowicz	Eugenia	06 Nov. 1935	83570
1604	Chirug	Zila	09 Sept. 1941	83571
1606	Chirug	Ruth	21 April 1937	83573
1608	Czariska	Sara	30 June 1932	83575
1610	Danziger	Arjela	19 March 1937	83577
1611	Feinsilber	Eva	04 Jan. 1940	83578
1614	Fürstenberg	Abram Meier	09 Feb. 1932	83581
1616	Gutmann	Dora	17 Jan. 1937	83583
1618	Glückmann	Schmul	24 March 1935	83585
1619	Glückmann	Chaja	12 Aug. 1930	83586
1621	Jacob	Gittel	06 March 1944	83588
1623	Jalanowicz	Felga	10 Jan. 1940	83590
1627	Kupferschmidt	Abraham	29 Oct. 1938	83594
1629	Kasz	Bronia	21 Feb. 1930	83596
1631	Frantz	Noemi	02 Nov. 1937	83598
1633	Lachmann	Kazimierz	01 March 1937	83600
1635	Neuberg	Lila	10 Oct. 1936	83602
1637	Potok	Trunseb	24 Feb. 1944	83604
1638	Rosenblum	Bronka	27 Dec. 1931	83605
1641	Rotstein	Regina	12 Aug. 1932	83608
1642	Rotstein	Sala	03 Oct. 1938	83609
1643	Richer	Tela	14 June 1932	83610
1645	Reingold	Elchanan	12 Dec. 1937	83612
1646	Steier	Frema	25 July 1942	83613

#	SURNAME	FIRST NAME	BORN	REG.-NO.
1648	Stelowicka	Ruchla	01 April 1936	83615
1650	Szyper	Adam	06 Dec. 1939	83617
1653	Salomonowicz	Michael	06 Oct. 1933	83620
1654	Salomonowicz	Josef	01 July 1938	83621
1656	Skura	Estera	27 Dec. 1933	83623
1657	Tabackschmeker	Jochwet	25 March 1930	83624
1660	Wolman	Kristina	25 Sept. 1930	83627
1735	Wolf	Helga	02 July 1935	83702

= running number of the list; Reg.-No. = registration number in Stutthof

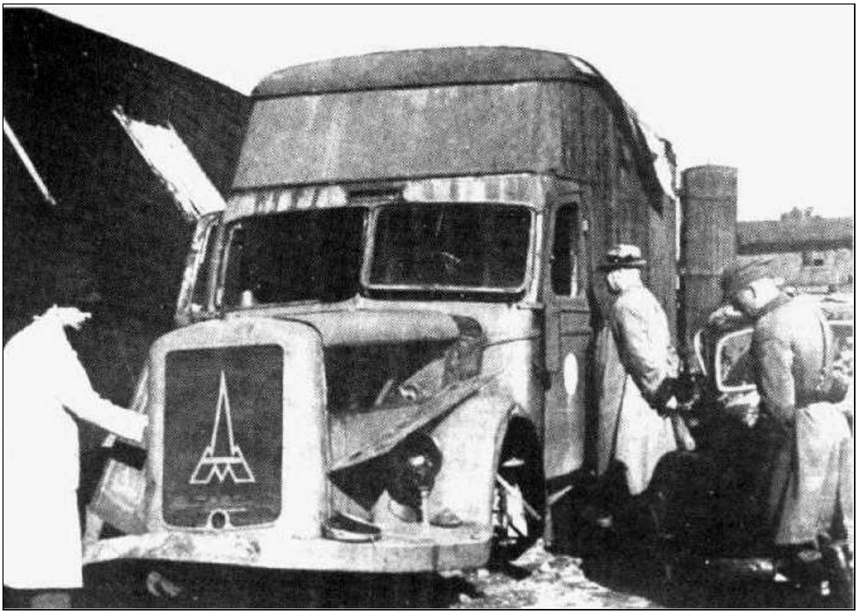
18.2. Documents



Document 1: Illustration board at the Chełmno Camp Museum (photo of 1997). © Carlo Mattogno



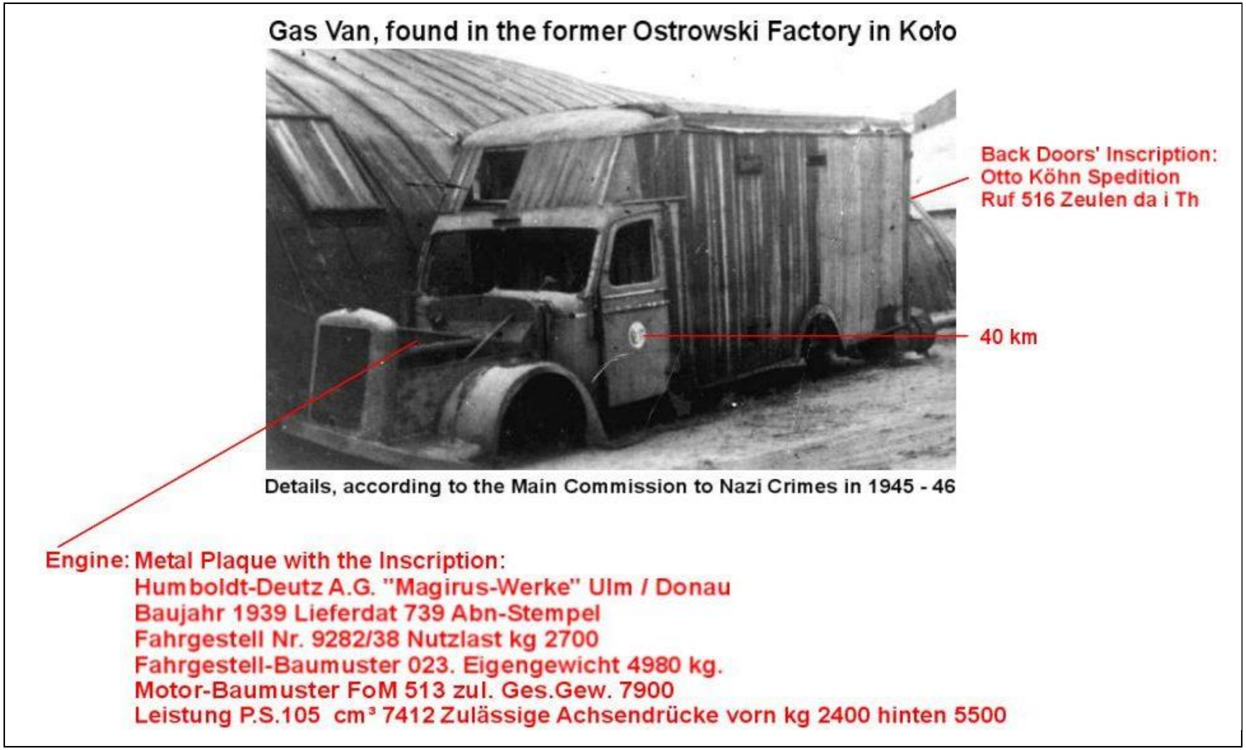
Document 1a: Detail of Document 1. The caption reads: "Vehicle found after the war at Koło on the grounds of the Ostrowski Factory."



Document 2: Photo of an alleged "gas van." (Fleming 1982, appendix between pp. 128 & 129)



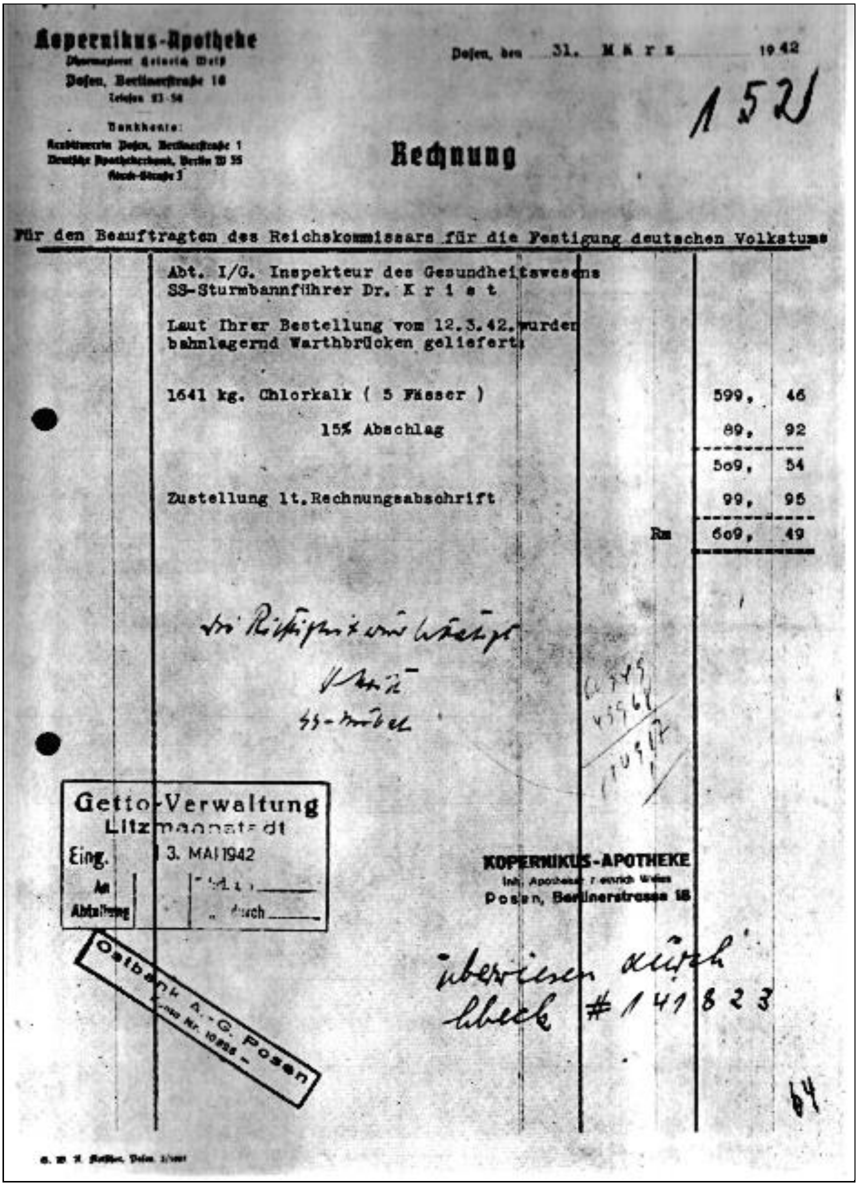
Document 3: Photo of an alleged "gas van." (www.deathcamps.org/occupation/pic/bigchelmnovan.jpg.)



Document 4: Photo of an alleged "gas van"; same as previous document with descriptions added (www.deathcamps.org/occupation/pic/bigkulmhof2.jpg)



Document 4a: Photos of a Diamond Truck Model T 968. (www.olive-drab.com/idphoto/id_photos_diamondt_968.php)



Kopernikus-Apotheke
Posen, Berlinerstraße 16

Posen, den 31. März 1942

1521

Rechnung

Für den Beauftragten des Reichskommissars für die Festigung deutschen Volkstums

Abt. I/G. Inspekteur des Gesundheitswesens
SS-Sturmbannführer Dr. K r i e t

Laut Ihrer Bestellung vom 12.3.42. wurden
bahnlagernd Warthbrücken geliefert:

1641 kg. Chlorkalk (5 Fässer)	599,	46
15% Abschlag	89,	92
	509,	54
Zustellung lt. Rechnungsabschrift	99,	95
Rm	609,	49

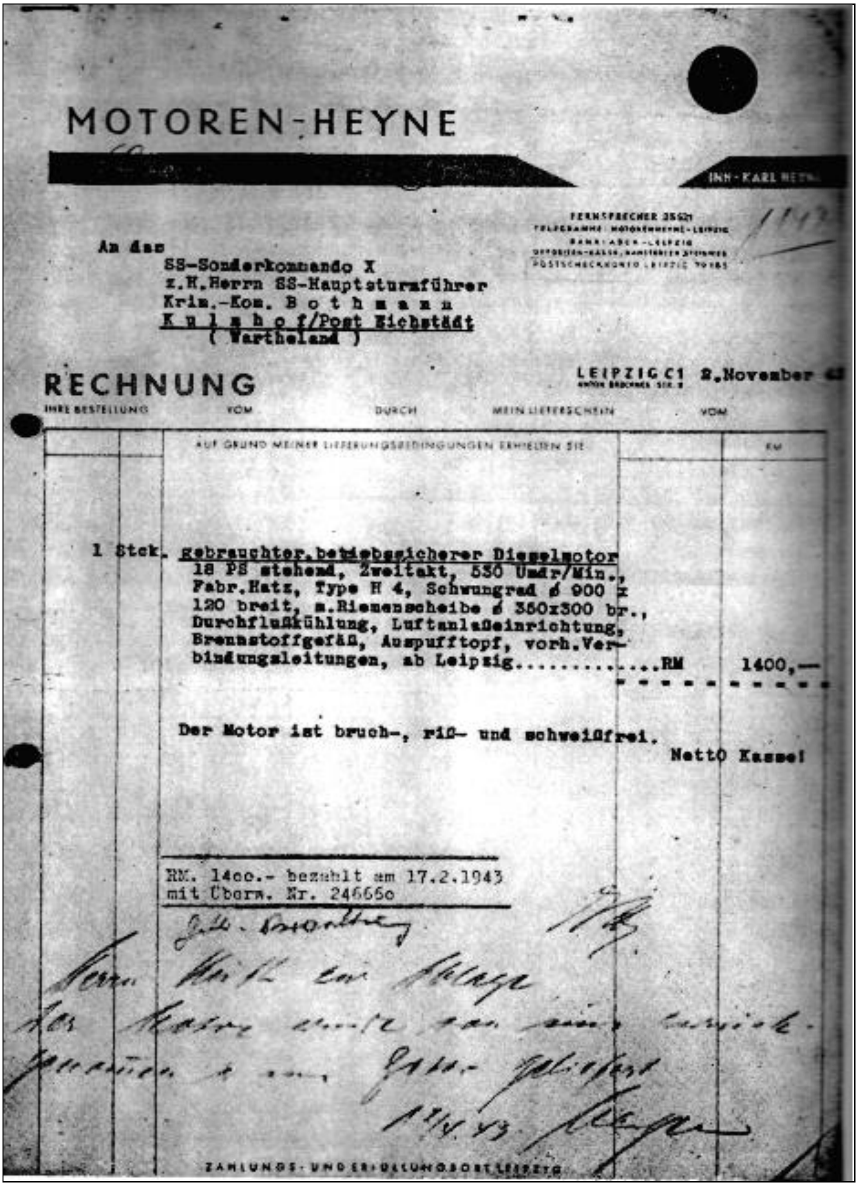
Getto-Verwaltung
Litzmannstadt
Eing. 3. MAI 1942

Ostbank A.-G. Posen

KOPERNIKUS-APOTHEKE
Posen, Berlinerstrasse 16

64

Document 5: Invoice of the *Kopernikus-Apotheke* (pharmacy) in Posen dated 31 March 1942 for the delivery of 1,641 kg of calcium chlorinated lime (*Chlorkalk*). (Jüdisches Historisches… 1960, p. 279)



MOTOREN-HEYNE

An das
SS-Sonderkommando X
z.H. Herrn SS-Hauptsturmführer
Krim.-Kom. B o t h m a n n
K u l m h o f/Post Eichstädt
(Wartheland)

RECHNUNG

LEIPZIG C1 2. November 42

1 Stck. gebrauchter, betriebssicherer Dieselmotor 18 PS stehend, Zweitakt, 530 Umdr/Min., Fabr. Hatz, Type H 4, Schwungrad ø 900 x 120 breit, m. Riemenscheibe ø 350x300 br., Durchflußkühlung, Luftanlaßeinrichtung, Brennstoffgefäß, Auspufftopf, vorh. Verbindungsleitungen, ab Leipzig............RM	1400,—

Der Motor ist bruch-, riß- und schweißfrei.

Netto Kasse!

RM. 14oo.- bezahlt am 17.2.1943
mit Überw. Nr. 246650

ZAHLUNGS- UND ERFÜLLUNGSORT LEIPZIG

Document 6, 6a: Invoice from the Heyne Motors company (*Heyne-Motoren*) of Leipzig addressed to SS *Sonderkommando* X to the attention of SS *Hauptsturmführer* Police Detective Bothmann, Kulmhof, regarding "1 used diesel engine for safe operation." (Jüdisches Historisches… 1960, p. 282.

SS-Standartenführer Blobel
Z.Zt. Staatspolizeistelle
L i t z m a n n s t a d t

Litzmannstadt, den 3.2.1943

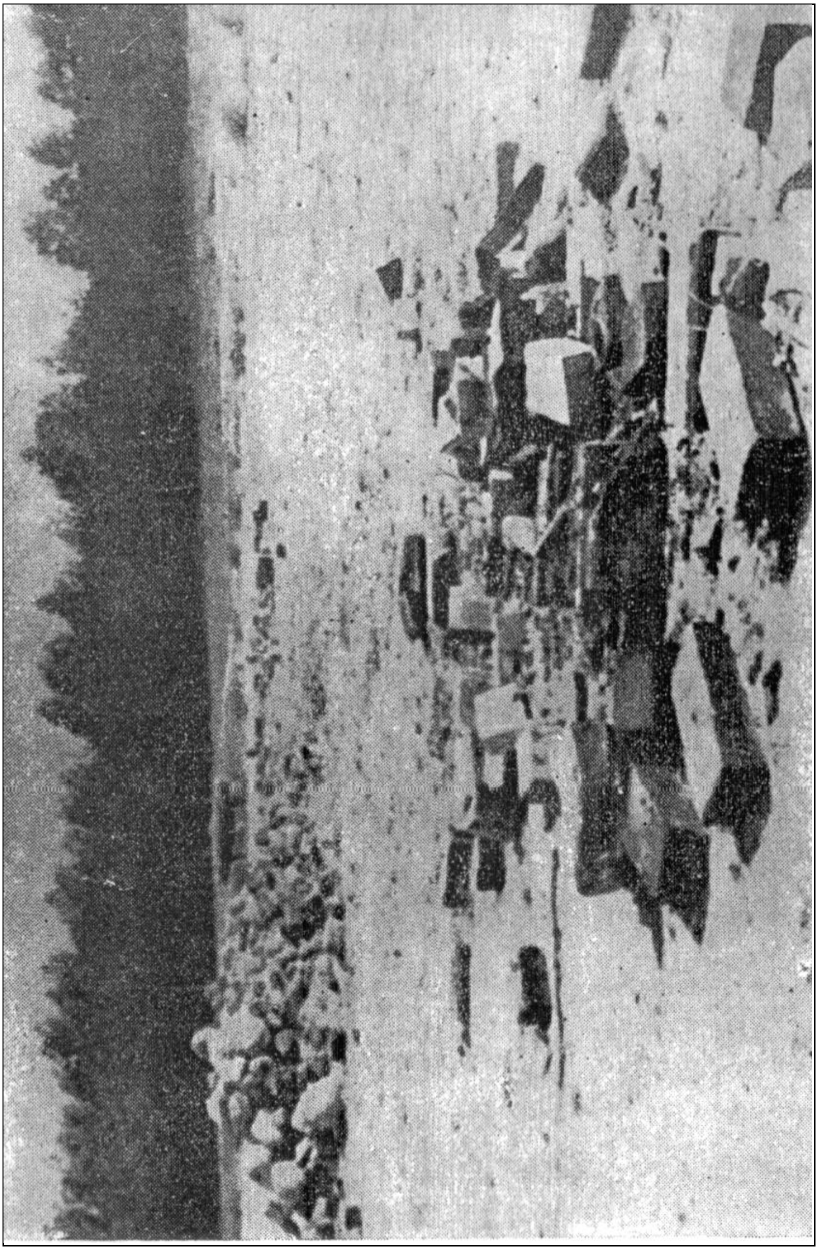
An die
Getto-Verwaltung
L i t z m a n n s t a d t
Z.Hd. v. Herrn B i e b o w

Betr.: Lieferung der Firma Motoren-Heyne, Leipzig C 1,
Für Zwecke des Sonderkommandos Kulmhof
Vorg.: Besprechung am 3.2.1943

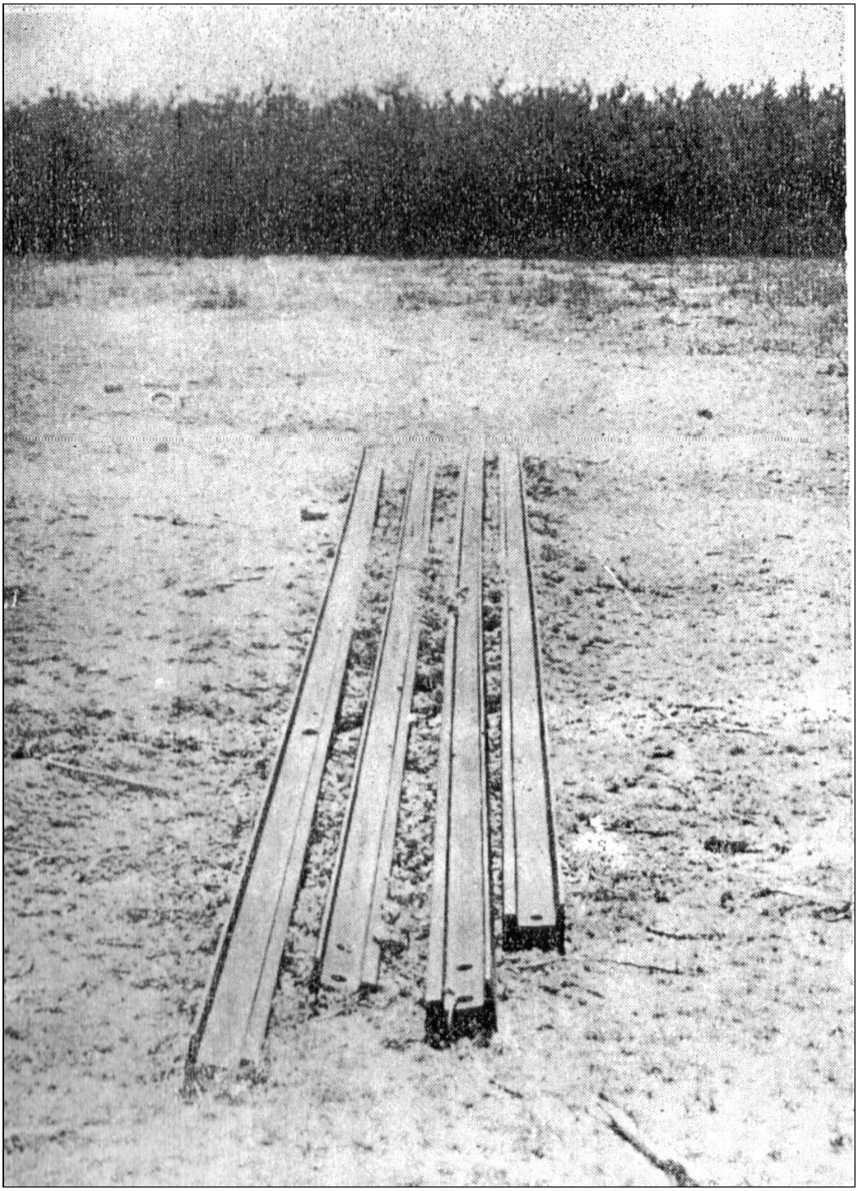
Obige Firma lieferte für das Sonderkommando Kulmhof den in beiliegender Rechnung aufgeführten Dieselmotor. Es wird gebeten den Betrag von RM 1400,oo lt. beiliegender Rechnung an obige Firma zu überweisen.

Blobel
SS-Standartenführer

Document 6a: Document 6, continued.



Document 7: Remainders of the cremation furnace at Chełmno (Bednarz 1946a, p. 7).



Document 8: Remainders of the cremation furnace at Chełmno (Bednarz 1946a, p. 8).

Auschwitz, den 17. September 1942

Reisebericht

über die Dienstfahrt nach Litzmannstadt.

Zweck der Fahrt: Besichtigung einer Sonderanlage
Abfahrt von Auschwitz erfolgte am 16.9.1942 5 Uhr früh mit PKW.
von Kommandantur des K.L. Auschwitz.
Beteiligte: SS-Obersturmbannführer H ö ß, SS-Untersturmführer H ö ß l e r
und SS-Untersturmführer D e j a c o.

Ankunft in Litzmannstadt um 9 Uhr früh. Es erfolgte eine Besichtigung des Gettos, anschließend Fahrt zur Sonderanlage. Besichtigung der Sonderanlage und Besprechung mit SS-Standartenführer B l o b e l über die Ausführung einer derartigen Anlage. Die bei der Firma Ostdeutsche Baustoffwerke, Posen, Wilhelm Gustloffstr. unter Sonderauftrag Staf. Blobel bestellten Baumaterialien sollen sofort für KL. Auschwitz geliefert werden. Die Bestellung geht aus dem beiliegenden Schreiben vom W.V.H. hervor und soll der Abruf und die Umleitung der bestellten Materialien im Einvernehmen mit Ostuf. Weber vom Amt C V/3 von der hiesigen Zentral-Bauleitung sofort erfolgen. Frachtbriefe in der angeforderten Anzahl sind der oben genannten Firma zu übersenden.

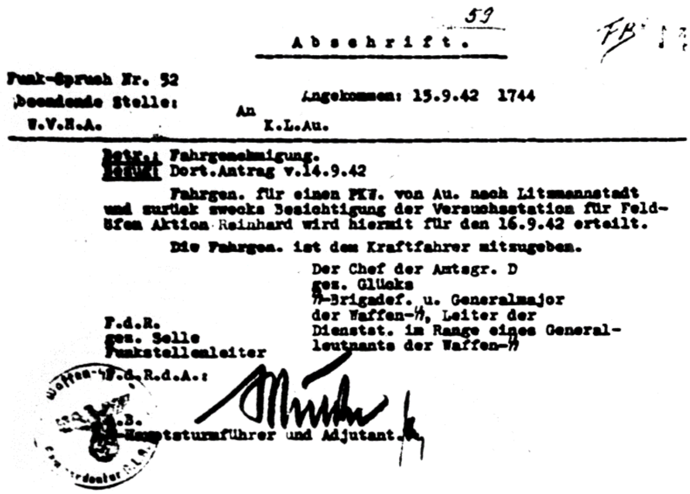
Unter Bezugnahme auf die Besprechung des SS-Staf. Blobel mit der Firma Schriever u. Co., Hannover, Bürgermeister Finkstr., soll die dort reservierte, bereits ~~in~~ beiseitegestellte Kugelmühle für Substanzen für das KL. Auschwitz zur Lieferung gelangen.

Rückfahrt erfolgte am 17.9.42, Ankunft in Auschwitz um 12 Uhr

Dejaco
SS-Ustuf. (F)

Anlagen:
1 Durchschrift
1 Skizze

Document 9: "Report on the business trip to Litzmannstadt" written by SS *Untersturmführer* Walter Dejaco on 17 September 1942. (RGVA, 502-1-336, p. 69)



59

Abschrift.

Funk-Spruch Nr. 52
Sendende Stelle: W.V.H.A.
Angekommen: 15.9.42 1744
An K.L.Au.

Betr.: Fahrgenehmigung.
[illegible] Dort.Antrag v.14.9.42

Fahrgen. für einen PKW. von Au. nach Litzmannstadt und zurück zwecks Besichtigung der Versuchsstation für Feldöfen Aktion Reinhard wird hiermit für den 16.9.42 erteilt.

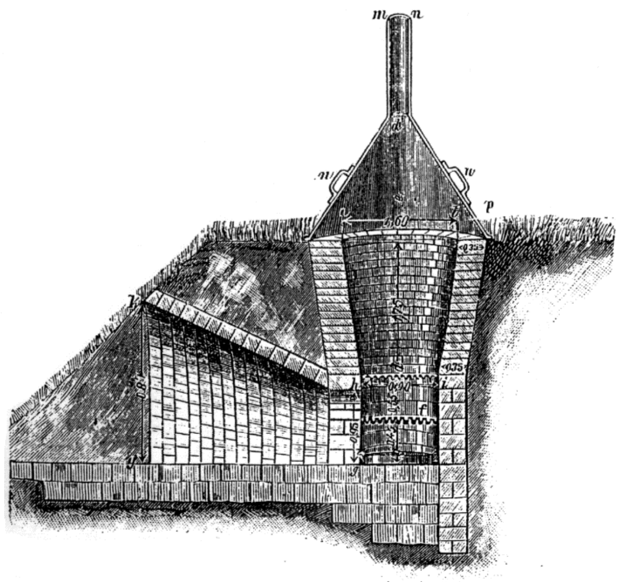
Die Fahrgen. ist dem Kraftfahrer mitzugeben.

Der Chef der Amtsgr. D
gez. Glücks
SS-Brigadef. u. Generalmajor
der Waffen-SS, Leiter der
Dienstst. im Range eines General-
leutnants der Waffen-SS

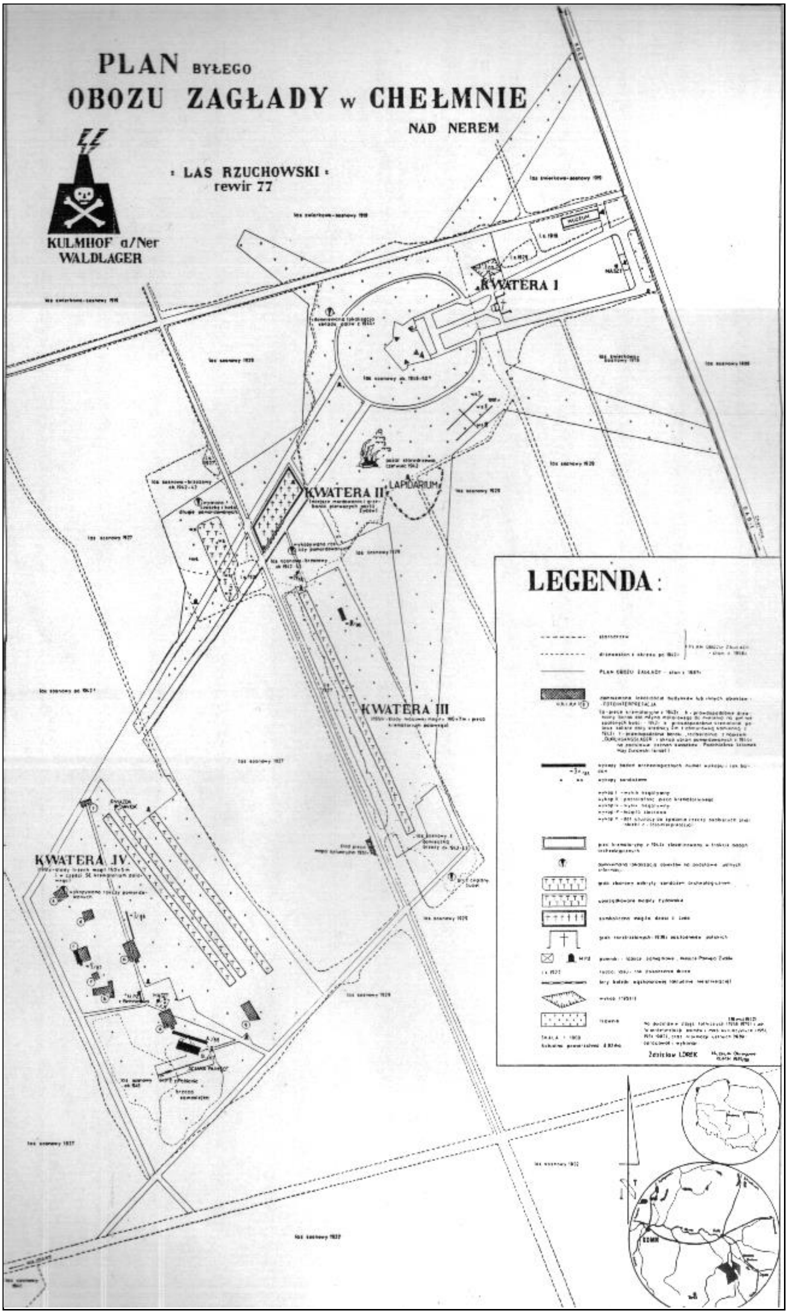
F.d.R.
gez. Selle
Funkstellenleiter

F.d.R.d.A.:
i.B.
Hauptsturmführer und Adjutant.

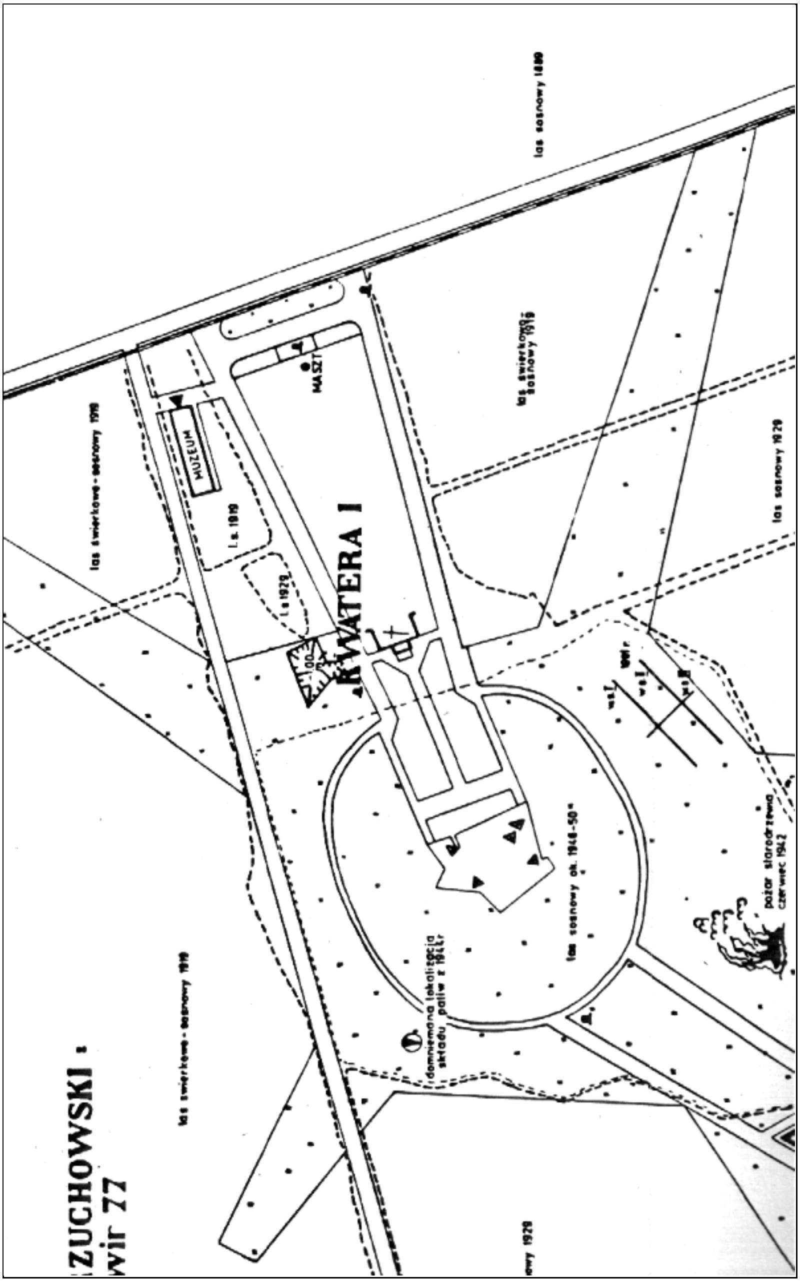
Document 10: Travel permit "for passenger car from Au.[schwitz] to Litzmannstadt [Łódź] and back for inspecting the experimental station for field incinerators Aktion Reinhardt" issued by the SS *WVHA* on 15 September 1942. (AGK, NTN, 94, p. 170)



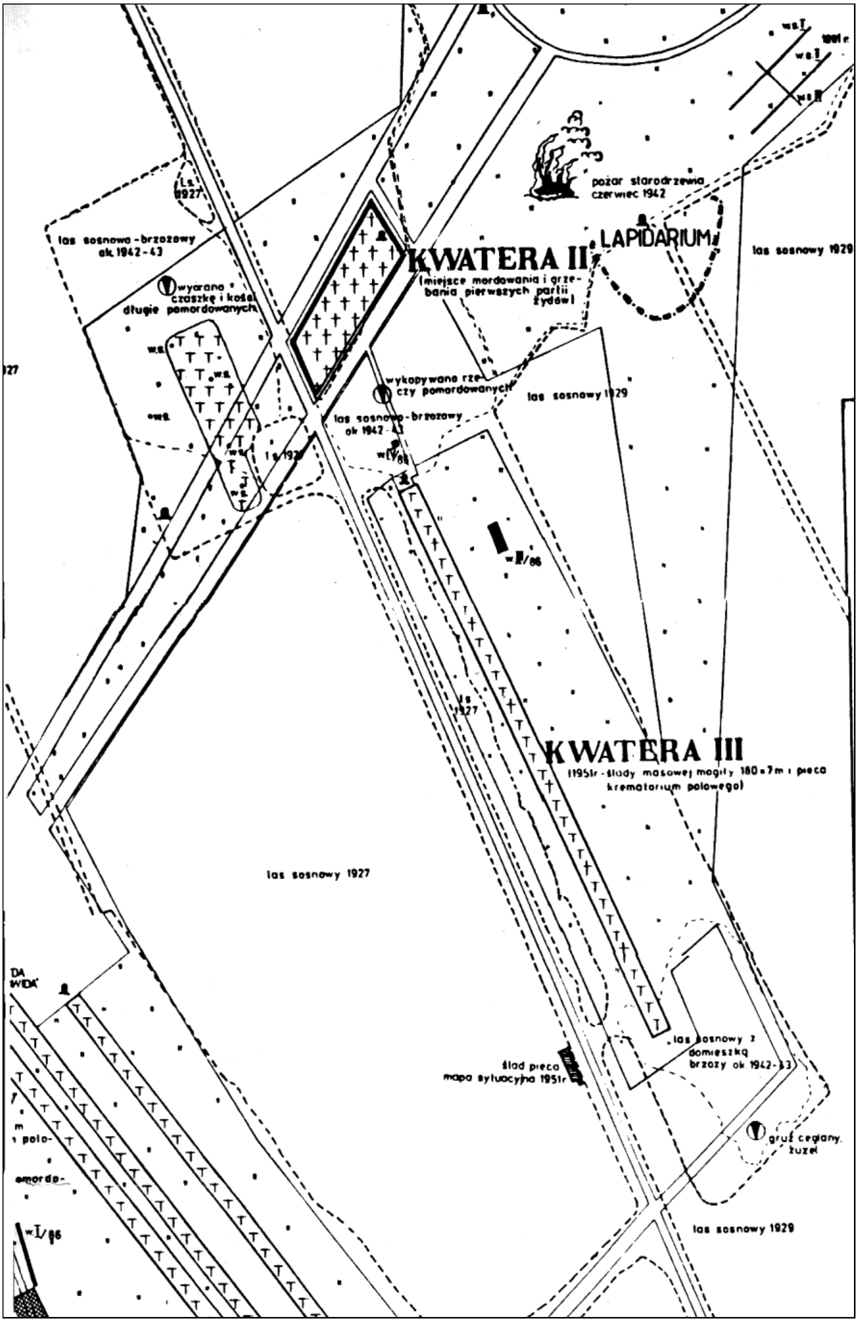
Document 11: Feist furnace for the destruction of carcasses of infected animal. (de Cristoforis 1890, p. 126)



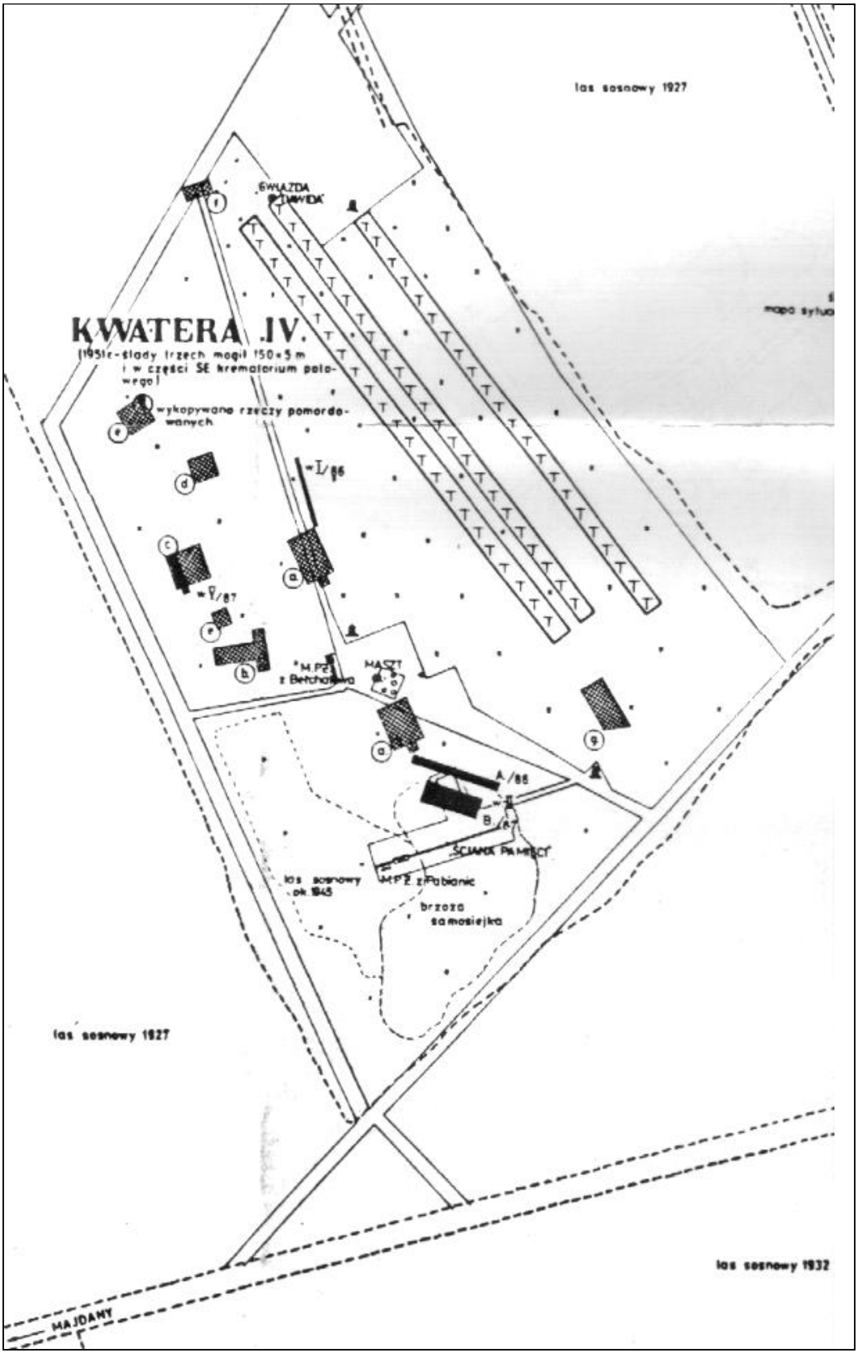
Document 12: Map of the Chełmno camp. (Krakowski 1996, table outside of text)



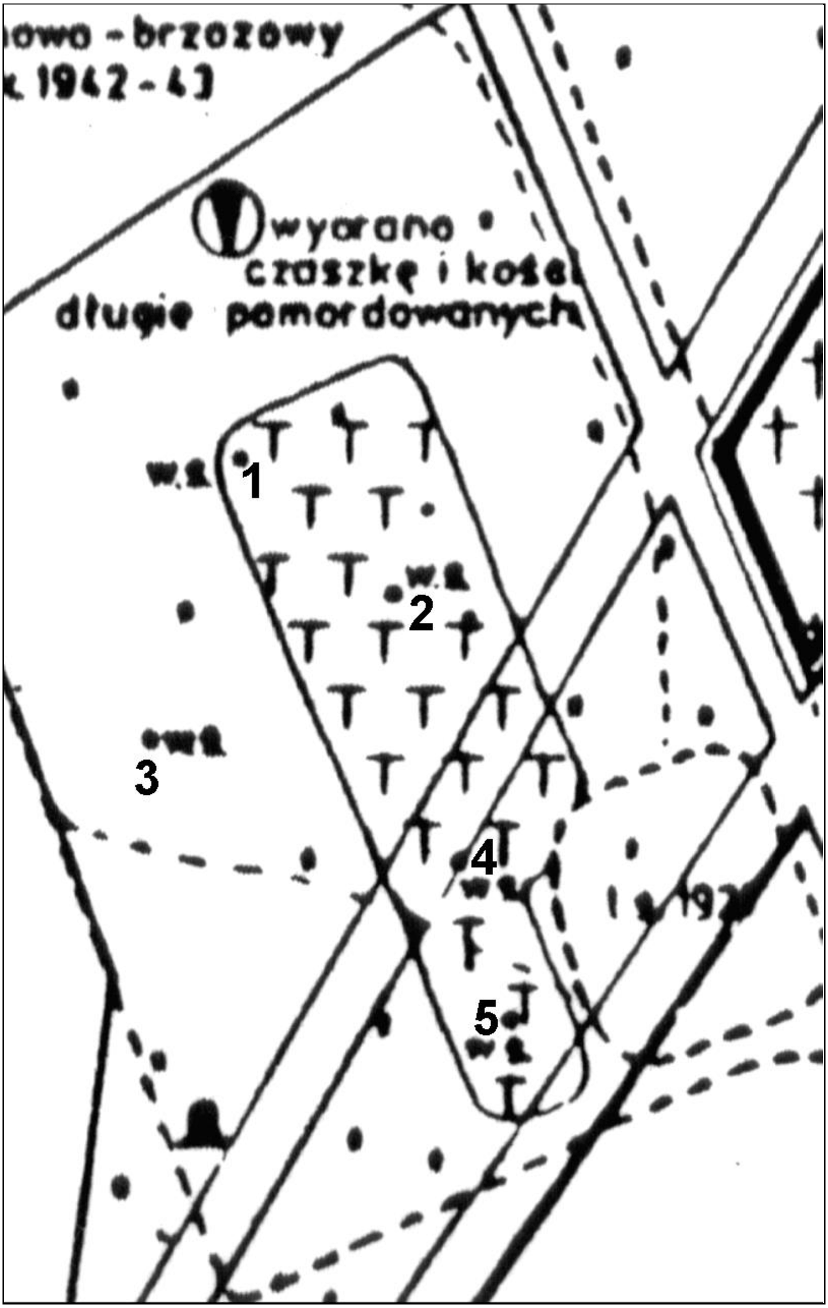
Document 12 a: Detail enlargement of the Chełmno camp map, sector I (rotated, see Document 12).



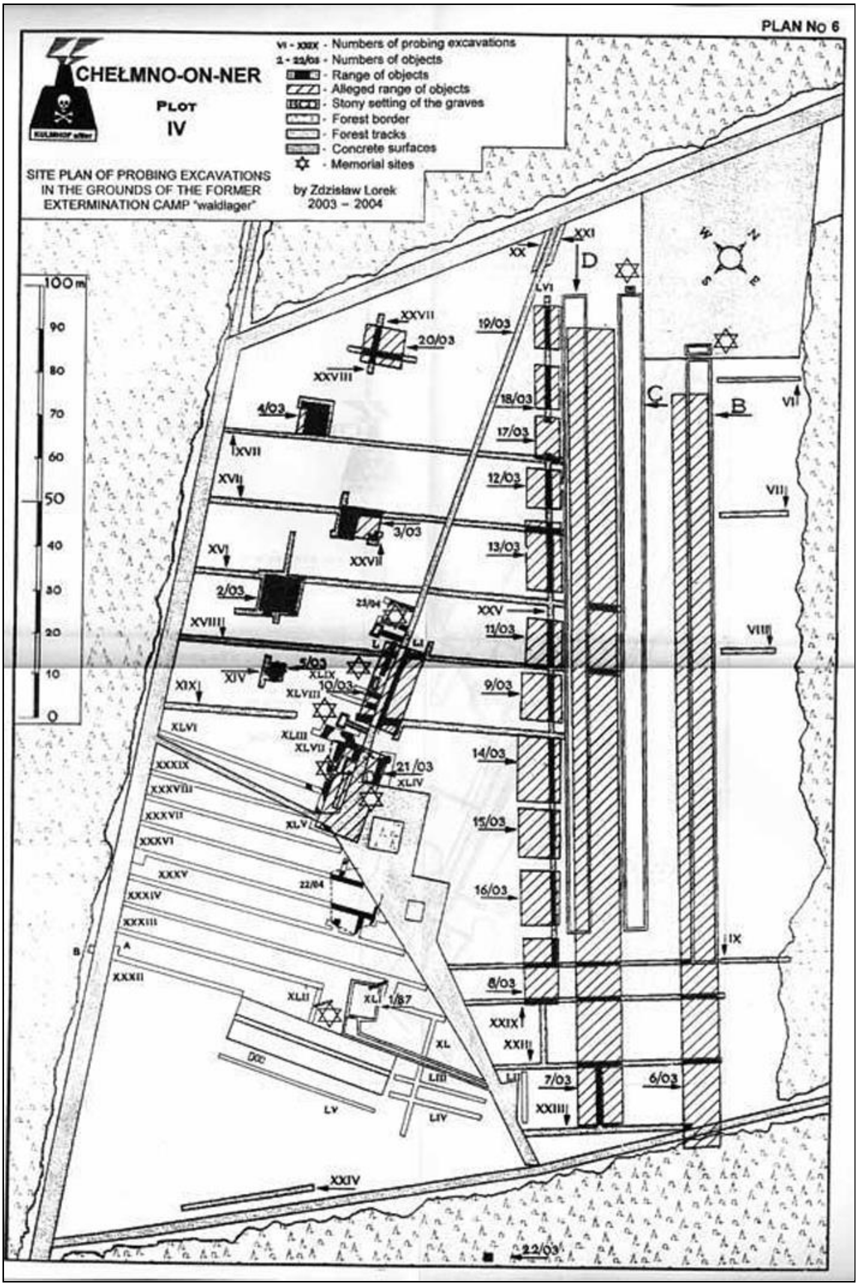
Document 12 b: Detail enlargement of the Chełmno camp map, sectors II-III (see Document 12).



Document 12 c: Detail enlargement of the Chełmno camp map, sector IV (see Document 12).



Document 12 d: Detail enlargement of the Chełmno camp map, sector IV, detail (see Document 12). Numbers 1-5 added by the author; see Section 10.4.



Document 12 e: Map of the archeological survey of 2003-2004 drawn by Zdzisław Lorek. (www.muzeum.com.pl/en/chelmno.htm)



Document 13: Air photo of the Chełmno camp of May 1942. (www.deathcamps.org/occupation/pic/bigarie.jpg; erroneously attributed to 1941).

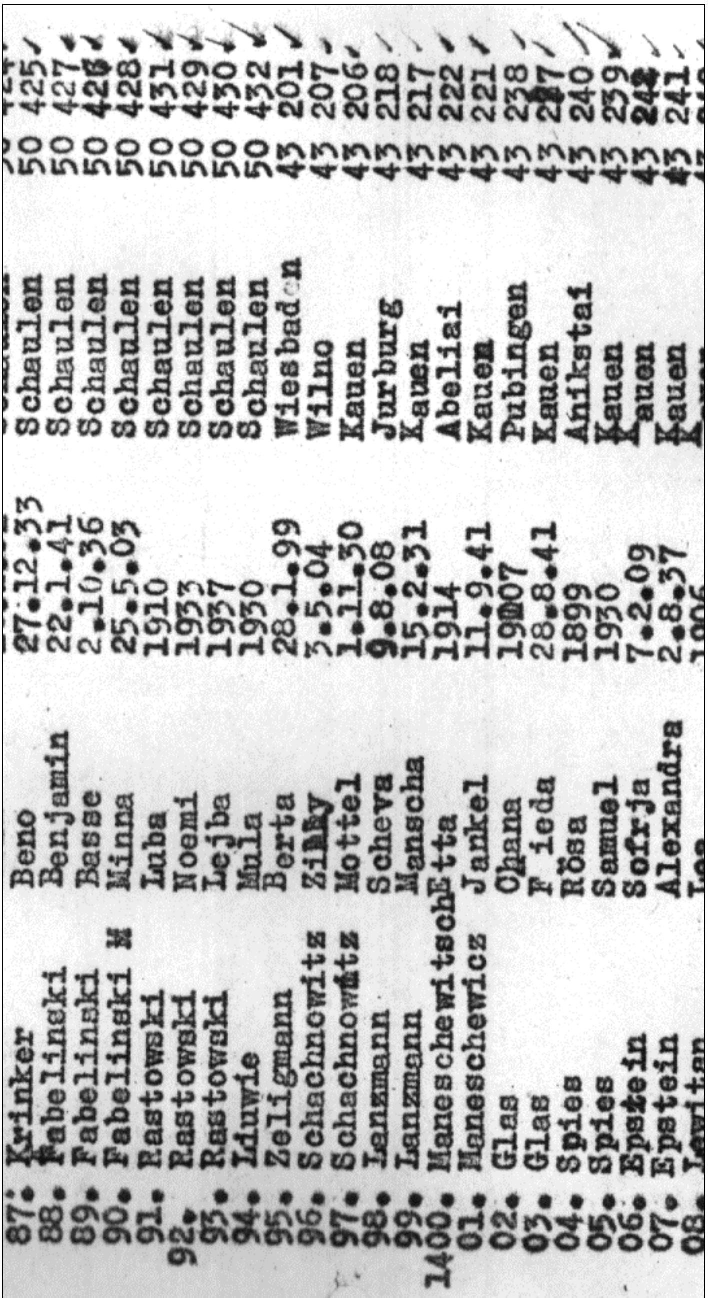


Document 14: Archaeological excavation of the cremation furnace of the Chełmno camp. (Gulczyński 1991, photo outside of text)

- 22 -

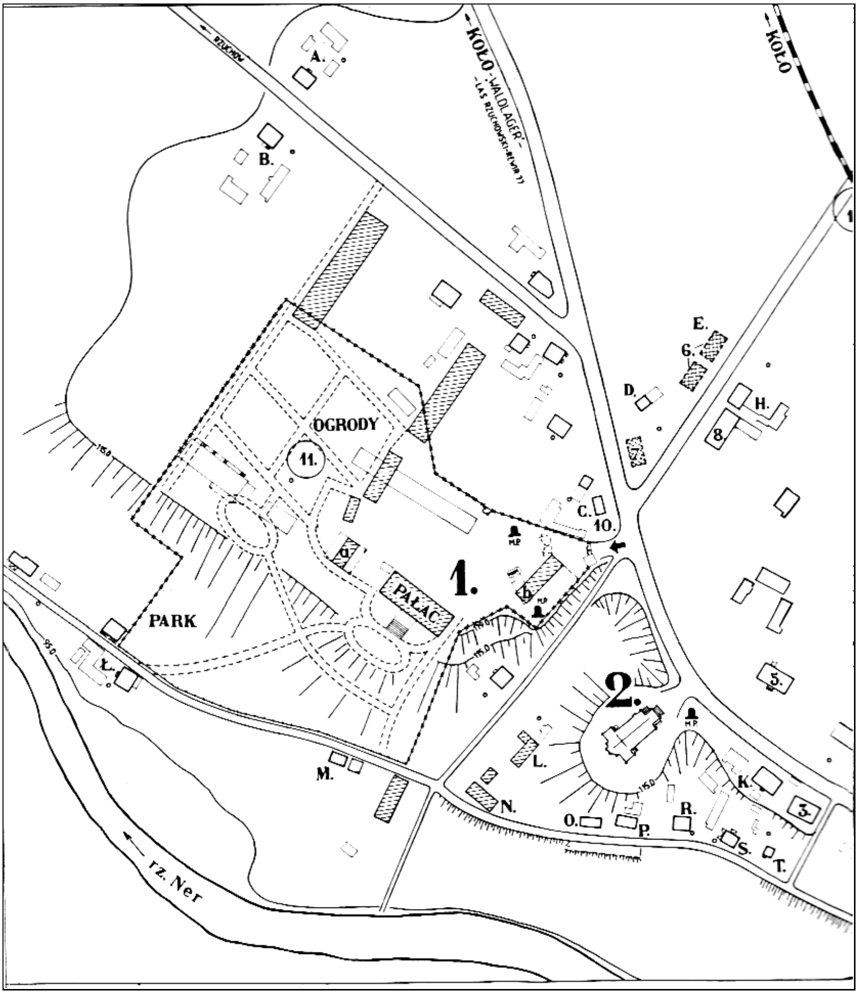
1356.	Zwik	Klara	1933	Kauen	50 393
57.	Zwik	Basia	1911	Poniewesch	50 394
58.	Malk	Hanna	1930	Schaulen	50 395
59.	Malk	Mera	1936	Schaulen	50 396
60.	Malk	Etta	1937	Schaulen	50 397
61.	Malk	Jenta	1903	Schaulen	50 398
62.	Beder	Lea	14.12.32	Schaulen	50 399
63.	Beder	Chaja	3.10.09	Razecknai	50 400
64.	Malk	Rosa	1930	Schaulen	50 401
65.	Malk	Beile	1902	Bansk	50 402
66.	Toker	Rachil	1910	Radvilischki	50 404
67.	Tóker	Mule	1930	Kauen	50 403
68.	Scheine	E.	1930	Schaulen	50 405
69.	Eliasch	Sara	1901	Schaulen	50 406
70.	Tkatz	Rosa	5.8.17	Paulmune	50 407
71.	Katz	Meier	12.9.36	Schaulen	50 408
72.	Gold	Abrascha	1937	Meme l	50 409
73.	Gold	Sara	1913	Pelschen	50 410
74.	Brande	Eliser	2.8.39	Kauen	50 411
75.	Brande	Tamara	1917	Viatka	50 412
76.	Losos	Cilia	1892	Taurogen	50 413
77.	Losos	Riva	193 0	Schaulen	50 414
78.	Scheftel	Riva	1931	Schaulen	50 415
79.	Raschkes	Basia	1909	Aniket	50 417
80.	Raschkes	Sima	1931	Schaulen	50 416
81.	Scheftel	Hale	1909	Schaulen	50 419
82.	Scheftel	Mauscha	1936	Schaulen	50 418
83.	Kirschner	Zore	1905	Schaulen	50 421
84.	Kirschner	Chane	1931	Schaulen	50 420
85.	Segalow	Riva	17.7.09	Wilno	50 423
[illegible]	Segalow	Meier	21.2.30	Kauen	50 422
86.	Krinker	Asia	10.1.02	Schaulen	50 424
87.	Krinker	Beno	27.12.33	Schaulen	50 425
88.	Fabelinski	Benjamin	22.1.41	Schaulen	50 427
89.	Fabelinski	Basse	2.10.36	Schaulen	50 426
90.	Fabelinski M	Minna	25.5.03	Schaulen	50 428
91.	Rastowski	Luba	1910	Schaulen	50 431
92.	Rastowski	Noemi	1933	Schaulen	50 429
93.	Rastowski	Lejba	1937	Schaulen	50 430
94.	Lduwie	Mula	1930	Schaulen	50 432
95.	Zeligmann	Berta	28.1.99	Wiesbaden	43 201
96.	Schachnowitz	Zilly	3.5.04	Wilno	43 207
97.	Schachnowitz	Mottel	1.11.30	Kauen	43 206
98.	Lanzmann	Scheva	9.8.08	Jurburg	43 218
99.	Lanzmann	Mauscha	15.2.31	Kauen	43 217
1400.	Maneschewitsch	Etta	1914	Abeliai	43 222
01.	Maneschewicz	Jankel	11.9.41	Kauen	43 221
02.	Glas	Chana	19007	Pubingen	43 238
03.	Glas	F ieda	28.8.41	Kauen	43 237
04.	Spies	Rösa	1899	Anikstai	43 240
05.	Spies	Samuel	1930	Kauen	43 239
06.	Epstein	Sofrja	7.2.09	Kauen	43 242
07.	Epstein	Alexandra	2.8.37	Kauen	43 241
08.	Lewitan	Lea	1906	Kauen	43 249
09.	Lewitan	Nera	1932	Kauen	43 248
10.	Cigan	Josle	1908	Kauen	43 253
11.	Cigan	Eide	1935	Kauen	43 252
12.	Perlmut	Pelte	1900	Vekschs	43 257
13.	Perlmut	MausA	1940	Kauen	43 256
14.	Perlmut	Taiba	1928	Kauen	43 258
15.	Zamsteigman	Rosa	5.12.03	Wielkija	43 264
16.	Zamsteigman	Icikk	27.8.36	Kauen	43 263
17.	Zamsteigman	Feiga	30.3.29	Kauen	43 265
18.	Smakowitz	Rocha	11.4.35	Kauen	43 266
142[illegible].	Smarkowitz	Moses	19.4.42	Kauen	43 267

Document 15: Page 22 of the list of a transport of Jews from Auschwitz to Stutthof of 3 September 1944. (AMS, I-IIC-3)



87.	Krinker	Beno	27.12.33	Schaulen	50	425
88.	Fabelinski	Benjamin	22.1.41	Schaulen	50	427
89.	Fabelinski	Basse	2.10.36	Schaulen	50	426
90.	Fabelinski M	Minna	25.5.03	Schaulen	50	428
91.	Rastowski	Luba	1910	Schaulen	50	431
92.	Rastowski	Noemi	1933	Schaulen	50	429
93.	Rastowski	Lejba	1937	Schaulen	50	430
94.	Iduwie	Mula	1930	Schaulen	50	432
95.	Zeligmann	Berta	28.1.99	Wiesbad n	43	201
96.	Schachnowitz	Zilly	3.5.04	Wilno	43	207
97.	Schachnowitz	Mottel	1.11.30	Kauen	43	206
98.	Lanzmann	Scheva	9.8.08	Jurburg	43	218
99.	Lanzmann	Mascha	15.2.31	Kauen	43	217
1400.	Maneschewitsch	Etta	1914	Abeliai	43	222
01.	Maneschewicz	Jankel	11.9.41	Kauen	43	221
02.	Glas	Chana	1907	Pubingen	43	238
03.	Glas	F ieda	28.8.41	Kauen	43	237
04.	Spies	Rösa	1899	Anikstai	43	240
05.	Spies	Samuel	1930	Kauen	43	239
06.	Epstein	Sofrja	7.2.09	Kauen	43	242
07.	Epstein	Alexandra	2.8.37	Kauen	43	241
08.	Lewitan	Lea	1906	K	43	

Document 15a: Page 22 of the list of a transport of Jews from Auschwitz to Stutthof of 3 September 1944; detail (AMS, I-IIC-3; detail)



Document 16: Map of the Chełmno "castle". (Krakowski 1996, outside of text)



Document 17: Ruins of the cremation furnace of Chełmno. (Photo of 1997). © Carlo Mattogno



Document 18: Ruins of the cremation furnace of Chełmno. (Photo of 1997). © Carlo Mattogno



Document 19: Ruins of the cremation furnace of Chełmno. (Photo of 1997). © Carlo Mattogno



Document 20: Ruins of the cremation furnace of Chełmno. (Photo of 1997). © Carlo Mattogno



Document 21: Ruins of the cremation furnace of Chełmno. Memorial stone. (Photo of 1997). © Carlo Mattogno



Document 22: Memorial entrance of the Chełmno camp. (Photo of 1997). © Carlo Mattogno



Document 23: Sector I of the Chełmno camp. (Photo of 1997). © Carlo Mattogno



Document 24: The "Lapidarium" of the Chełmno camp. (Photo of 1997). © Carlo Mattogno



Document 25: One of the “symbolic” graves of the Chełmno camp. Detail. (Photo of 1997). © Carlo Mattogno



Document 26: The three “symbolic” graves in Sector IV of the Chełmno camp. (Photo of 1997). © Carlo Mattogno



Document 27: The “Memorial wall” in Sector IV of the Chełmno camp. (Photo of 1997). © Carlo Mattogno

18.3. Abbreviations

AGK: *Archiwum Głównej Komisji Badania Zbrodni Przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu – Instytutu Pamieci Narodowej* (Archive of the Central Commission for the Investigation of Crimes Against the Polish People – National Memorial), Warsaw

AMS: *Archiwum Muzeum Stutthof* (Archive of the Stutthof Museum)

APL: *Archiwum Państwowe w Łódźi* (Łódź State Archive)

APMO: *Archiwum Państwowego Muzeum w Oświęcimiu* (Archive of the Auschwitz State Museum)

GARF: *Gosudarstvenni Archiv Rossiskoi Federatsii* (State Archive of the Russian Federation), Moscow

IMT: *Trial of the major war criminals before the International Military Tribunal* (IMT). Nuremberg 14. November 1945 – 1. October 1946. Published at Nuremberg, Germany, 1947

RGVA: *Rossiiskii Gosudarstvennii Vojennii Archiv* (Russian State War Archive), Moscow.

SL: *Staatsarchiv Ludwigsburg*

ZSL: *Zentrale Stelle der Landesjustizverwaltungen zur Aufklärung nationalsozialistischer Verbrechen*, Ludwigsburg

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18.5. Index of Names

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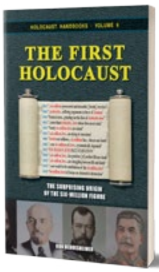
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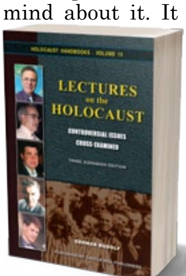
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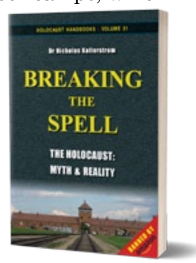
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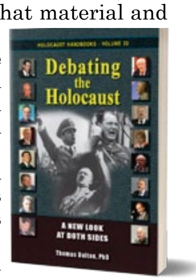
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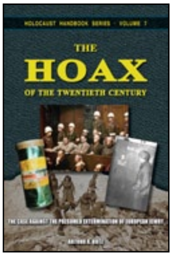
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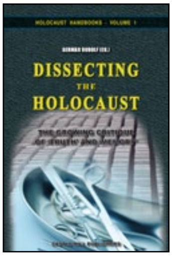


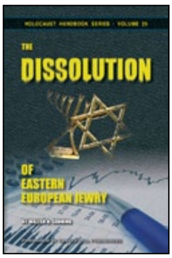
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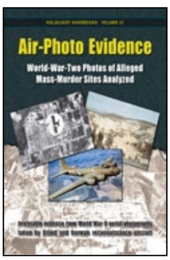


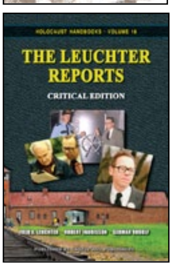
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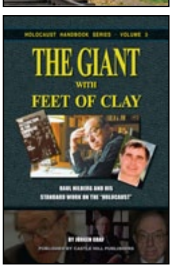












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The Dissolution of Eastern European Jewry. By Walter N. Sanning. Six Million Jews died in the Holocaust. Sanning did not take that number at face value, but thoroughly explored European population developments and shifts mainly caused by emigration as well as deportations and evacuations conducted by both Nazis and the Soviets, among other things. The book is based mainly on Jewish, Zionist and mainstream sources. It concludes that a sizeable share of the Jews found missing during local censuses after the Second World War, which were so far counted as "Holocaust victims," had either emigrated (mainly to Israel or the U.S.) or had been deported by Stalin to Siberian labor camps. 2nd ed., foreword by A.R. Butz, epilogue by Germar Rudolf containing important updates; 224 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography (#29).

Air Photo Evidence: World War Two Photos of Alleged Mass Murder Sites Analyzed. By Germar Rudolf (editor). During World War Two both German and Allied reconnaissance aircraft took countless air photos of places of tactical and strategic interest in Europe. These photos are prime evidence for the investigation of the Holocaust. Air photos of locations like Auschwitz, Majdanek, Treblinka, Babi Yar etc. permit an insight into what did or did not happen there. The author has unearthed many pertinent photos and has thoroughly analyzed them. This book is full of air photo reproductions and schematic drawings explaining them. According to the author, these images refute many of the atrocity claims made by witnesses in connection with events in the German sphere of influence. 5th edition; with a contribution by Carlo Mattogno. 168 pages, 8.5"×11", b&w illustrations, bibliography, index (#27).

The Leuchter Reports: Critical Edition. By Fred Leuchter, Robert Faurisson and Germar Rudolf. Between 1988 and 1991, U.S. expert on execution technologies Fred Leuchter wrote four detailed reports addressing whether the Third Reich operated homicidal gas chambers. The first report on Auschwitz and Majdanek became world famous. Based on chemical analyses and various technical arguments, Leuchter concluded that the locations investigated "could not have then been, or now be, utilized or seriously considered to function as execution gas chambers." The second report deals with gas-chamber claims for the camps Dachau, Mauthausen and Hartheim, while the third reviews design criteria and operation procedures of execution gas chambers in the U.S. The fourth report reviews Pressac's 1989 tome *Auschwitz*. 4th ed., 252 pages, b&w illustrations. (#16)

The Giant with Feet of Clay: Raul Hilberg and His Standard Work on the "Holocaust." By Jürgen Graf. Raul Hilberg's major work *The Destruction of European Jewry* is an orthodox standard work on the Holocaust. But what evidence does Hilberg provide to back his thesis that there was a German plan to exterminate Jews, carried out mainly in gas chambers? Jürgen Graf applies the methods of critical analysis to Hilberg's evidence and examines the results in light of modern historiography. The results of Graf's critical analysis are devastating for Hilberg.

2nd, corrected edition, 139 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#3)

Jewish Emigration from the Third Reich. By Ingrid Weckert. Current historical writings about the Third Reich claim state it was difficult for Jews to flee from Nazi persecution. The truth is that Jewish emigration was welcomed by the German authorities. Emigration was not some kind of wild flight, but rather a lawfully determined and regulated matter. Weckert's booklet elucidates the emigration process in law and policy. She shows that German and Jewish authorities worked closely together. Jews interested in emigrating received detailed advice and offers of help from both sides. 2nd ed., 130 pages, index. (#12)

Inside the Gas Chambers: The Extermination of Mainstream Holocaust Historiography. By Carlo Mattogno. Neither increased media propaganda or political pressure nor judicial persecution can stifle revisionism. Hence, in early 2011, the Holocaust Orthodoxy published a 400 pp. book (in German) claiming to refute "revisionist propaganda," trying again to prove "once and for all" that there were homicidal gas chambers at the camps of Dachau, Natzweiler, Sachsenhausen, Mauthausen, Ravensbrück, Neuengamme, Stutthof… you name them. Mattogno shows with his detailed analysis of this work of propaganda that mainstream Holocaust hagiography is beating around the bush rather than addressing revisionist research results. He exposes their myths, distortions and lies. 2nd ed., 280 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#25)

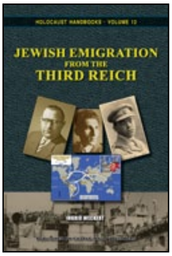
SECTION TWO:
Specific non-Auschwitz Studies

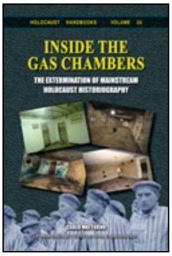
Treblinka: Extermination Camp or Transit Camp? By Carlo Mattogno and Jürgen Graf. It is alleged that at Treblinka in East Poland between 700,000 and 3,000,000 persons were murdered in 1942 and 1943. The weapons used were said to have been stationary and/or mobile gas chambers, fast-acting or slow-acting poison gas, unslaked lime, superheated steam, electricity, diesel exhaust fumes etc. Holocaust historians alleged that bodies were piled as high as multi-storied buildings and burned without a trace, using little or no fuel at all. Graf and Mattogno have now analyzed the origins, logic and technical feasibility of the official version of Treblinka. On the basis of numerous documents they reveal Treblinka's true identity as a mere transit camp. 2nd ed., 372 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#8)

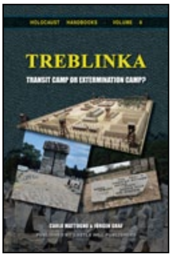
Belzec in Propaganda, Testimonies, Archeological Research and History. By Carlo Mattogno. Witnesses report that between 600,000 and 3 million Jews were murdered in the Belzec camp, located in Poland. Various murder weapons are claimed to have been used: diesel gas; unslaked lime in trains; high voltage; vacuum chambers; etc. The corpses were incinerated on huge pyres without leaving a trace. For those who know the stories about Treblinka this sounds familiar. Thus the author has restricted this study to the aspects which are new compared to Treblinka. In contrast to Treblinka, forensic drillings and excavations were performed at Belzec, the results of which are critically reviewed. 142 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#9)

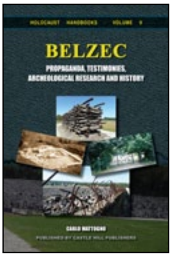
Sobibor: Holocaust Propaganda and Reality. By Jürgen Graf, Thomas Kues and Carlo Mattogno. Between 25,000 and 2 million Jews are said to have been killed in gas chambers in the Sobibór camp in Poland. The corpses were allegedly buried in mass graves and later incinerated on pyres. This book investigates these claims and shows that they are based on the selective use of contradictory eyewitness testimony. Archeological surveys of the camp in 2000-2001 are analyzed, with fatal results for the extermination camp hypothesis. The book also documents the general National Socialist policy toward Jews, which never included a genocidal "final solution." 442 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#19)

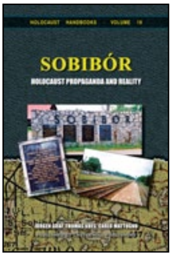
The "Extermination Camps" of "Aktion Reinhardt". By Jürgen Graf, Thomas Kues and Carlo Mattogno. In late 2011, several members of the exterminationist *Holocaust Controversies* blog posted a study online which claims to refute three of our authors' monographs on the camps Belzec, Sobibor and Treblinka (see previous three entries). This tome is their point-by-point response, which makes "mincemeat" out of the bloggers' attempt at refutation. Caution: The two volumes of this work are an intellectual overkill for most people. They are recommended only for collectors, connoisseurs and professionals. These two books require familiarity with the above-mentioned books, of which they are a comprehensive update and expansion. 2nd ed., two volumes, total of 1396 pages, illustrations, bibliography. (#28)

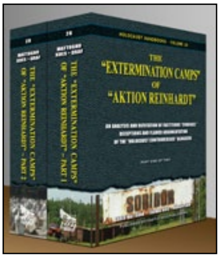












Chelmno: A Camp in History & Propaganda. By Carlo Mattogno. At Chelmno, huge masses of Jewish prisoners are said to have been gassed in "gas vans" or shot (claims vary from 10,000 to 1.3 million victims). This study covers the subject from every angle, undermining the orthodox claims about the camp with an overwhelmingly effective body of evidence. Eyewitness statements, gas wagons as extermination weapons, forensics reports and excavations, German documents—all come under Mattogno's scrutiny. Here are the uncensored facts about Chelmno, not the propaganda. 2nd ed., 188 pages, indexed, illustrated, bibliography. (#23)

The Gas Vans: A Critical Investigation. By Santiago Alvarez and Pierre Marais. It is alleged that the Nazis used mobile gas chambers to exterminate 700,000 people. Up until 2011, no thorough monograph had appeared on the topic. Santiago Alvarez has remedied the situation. Are witness statements reliable? Are documents genuine? Where are the murder weapons? Could they have operated as claimed? Where are the corpses? In order to get to the truth of the matter, Alvarez has scrutinized all known wartime documents and photos about this topic; he has analyzed a huge amount of witness statements as published in the literature and as presented in more than 30 trials held over the decades in Germany, Poland and Israel; and he has examined the claims made in the pertinent mainstream literature. The result of his research is mind-boggling. Note: This book and Mattogno's book on Chelmno were edited in parallel to make sure they are consistent and not repetitive. 398 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#26)

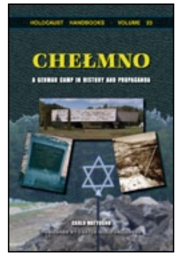
The Einsatzgruppen in the Occupied Eastern Territories: Genesis, Missions and Actions. By C. Mattogno. Before invading the Soviet Union, the German authorities set up special units meant to secure the area behind the German front. Orthodox historians claim that these unites called *Einsatzgruppen* primarily engaged in rounding up and mass-murdering Jews. This study sheds a critical light into this topic by reviewing all the pertinent sources as well as material traces. It reveals on the one hand that original war-time documents do not fully support the orthodox genocidal narrative, and on the other that most post-"liberation" sources such as testimonies and forensic reports are steeped in Soviet atrocity propaganda and are thus utterly unreliable. In addition, material traces of the claimed massacres are rare due to an attitude of collusion by governments and Jewish lobby groups. 830 pp., b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#39)

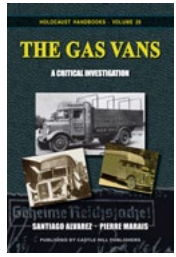
Concentration Camp Majdanek. A Historical and Technical Study. By Carlo Mattogno and Jürgen Graf. At war's end, the Soviets claimed that up to two million Jews were murdered at the Majdanek Camp in seven gas chambers. Over the decades, however, the Majdanek Museum reduced the death toll three times to currently 78,000, and admitted that there were "only" two gas chambers. By exhaustively researching primary sources, the authors expertly dissect and repudiate the myth of homicidal gas chambers at that camp. They also critically investigated the legend of mass executions of Jews in tank trenches and prove them groundless. Again they have produced a standard work of methodical investigation which authentic historiography cannot ignore. 3rd ed., 358 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#5)

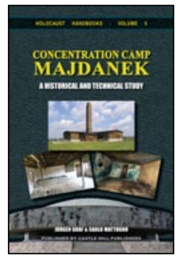
Concentration Camp Stutthof and Its Function in National Socialist Jewish Policy. By Carlo Mattogno and Jürgen Graf. Orthodox historians claim that the Stutthof Camp served as a "makeshift" extermination camp in 1944. Based mainly on archival resources, this study thoroughly debunks this view and shows that Stutthof was in fact a center for the organization of German forced labor toward the end of World War II. 4th ed., 170 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#4)

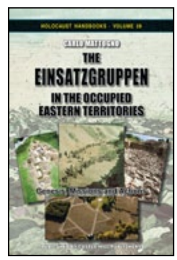
SECTION THREE:
Auschwitz Studies

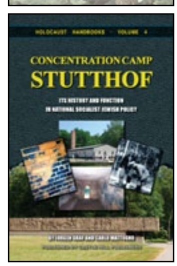
The Making of the Auschwitz Myth: Auschwitz in British Intercepts, Polish Underground Reports and Postwar Testimonies (1941-1947). By Carlo Mattogno. Using messages sent by the Polish underground to London, SS radio messages send to and from Auschwitz that were intercepted and decrypted by the British, and a plethora of witness statements made during the war and in the immediate postwar period, the author shows how exactly the myth of mass murder in Auschwitz gas chambers was created, and how it was turned subsequently into "history" by intellectually corrupt scholars who cherry-picked claims that fit into their agenda and ignored or actively covered up literally thousands of lies of "witnesses" to make their narrative look credible. Ca. 300

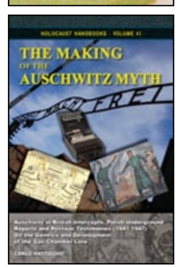


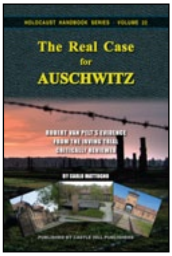




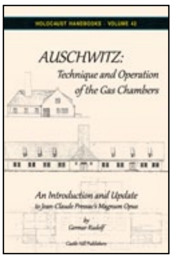


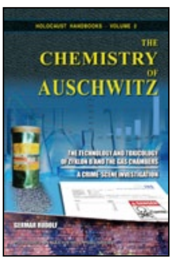


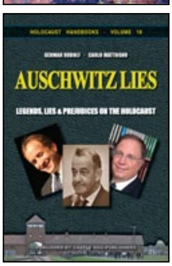


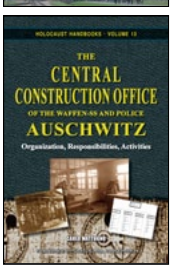












pp., b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (Scheduled for mid-2020; #41)

The Real Case of Auschwitz: Robert van Pelt's Evidence from the Irving Trial Critically Reviewed. By Carlo Mattogno. Prof. Robert van Pelt is considered one of the best mainstream experts on Auschwitz. He became famous when appearing as an expert during the London libel trial of David Irving against Deborah Lipstadt. From it resulted a book titled *The Case for Auschwitz*, in which van Pelt laid out his case for the existence of homicidal gas chambers at that camp. This book is a scholarly response to Prof. van Pelt—and Jean-Claude Pressac, upon whose books van Pelt's study is largely based. Mattogno lists all the evidence van Pelt adduces, and shows one by one that van Pelt misrepresented and misinterpreted each single one of them. This is a book of prime political and scholarly importance to those looking for the truth about Auschwitz. 3rd ed., 692 pages, b&w illustrations, glossary, bibliography, index. (#22)

Auschwitz: Plain Facts: A Response to Jean-Claude Pressac. Edited by Germar Rudolf, with contributions by Serge Thion, Robert Faurisson and Carlo Mattogno. French pharmacist Jean-Claude Pressac tried to refute revisionist findings with the "technical" method. For this he was praised by the mainstream, and they proclaimed victory over the "revisionists." In his book, Pressac's works and claims are shown to be unscientific in nature, as he never substantiate what he claims, and historically false, because he systematically misrepresents, misinterprets and misunderstands German wartime documents. 2nd ed., 226 pages, b&w illustrations, glossary bibliography, index. (#14)

Auschwitz: Technique and Operation of the Gas Chambers: An Introduction and Update. By Germar Rudolf. Pressac's 1989 oversize book of the same title was a trail blazer. Its many document reproductions are still valuable, but after decades of additional research, Pressac's annotations are outdated. This book summarizes the most pertinent research results on Auschwitz gained during the past 30 years. With many references to Pressac's epic tome, it serves as an update and correction to it, whether you own an original hard copy of it, read it online, borrow it from a library, purchase a reprint, or are just interested in such a summary in general. 144 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography. (#42)

The Chemistry of Auschwitz: The Technology and Toxicology of Zyklon B and the Gas Chambers – A Crime Scene Investigation. By Germar Rudolf. This study documents forensic research on Auschwitz, where material traces and their interpretation reign supreme. Most of the claimed crime scenes – the claimed homicidal gas chambers – are still accessible to forensic examination to some degree. This book addresses questions such as: What did these gas chambers look like? How did they operate? In addition, the infamous Zyklon B can also be examined. What exactly was it? How does it kill? Does it leave traces in masonry that can be found still today? The author also discusses in depth similar forensic research concuted by other authors. 3rd ed., 442 pages, more than 120 color and almost 100 b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#2)

Auschwitz Lies: Legends, Lies and Prejudices on the Holocaust. By C. Mattogno and G. Rudolf. The fallacious research and alleged "refutation" of Revisionist scholars by French biochemist G. Wellers (attacking Leuchter's famous report), Polish chemist Dr. J. Markiewicz and U.S. chemist Dr. Richard Green (taking on Rudolf's chemical research), Dr. John Zimmerman (tackling Mattogno on cremation issues), Michael Shermer and Alex Grobman (trying to prove it all), as well as researchers Keren, McCarthy and Mazal (how turned cracks into architectural features), are exposed for what they are: blatant and easily exposed political lies created to ostracize dissident historians. 3rd ed., 398 pages, b&w illustrations, index. (#18)

Auschwitz: The Central Construction Office. By C. Mattogno. Based upon mostly unpublished German wartime documents, this study describes the history, organization, tasks and procedures of the one office which was responsible for the planning and construction of the Auschwitz camp complex, including the crematories which are said to have contained the "gas chambers." 2nd ed., 188 pages, b&w illustrations, glossary, index. (#13)

Garrison and Headquarters Orders of the Auschwitz Camp. By C. Mattogno. A large number of all the orders ever issued by the various commanders of the infamous Auschwitz camp have been preserved. They reveal the true nature of the camp with all its daily events. There is not a trace in these orders pointing at anything sinister going on in this camp. Quite to the

contrary, many orders are in clear and insurmountable contradiction to claims that prisoners were mass murdered. This is a selection of the most pertinent of these orders together with comments putting them into their proper historical context. (Scheduled for late 2020; #34)

Special Treatment in Auschwitz: Origin and Meaning of a Term. By C. Mattogno. When appearing in German wartime documents, terms like "special treatment," "special action," and others have been interpreted as code words for mass murder. But that is not always true. This study focuses on documents about Auschwitz, showing that, while "special" had many different meanings, not a single one meant "execution." Hence the practice of deciphering an alleged "code language" by assigning homicidal meaning to harmless documents – a key component of mainstream historiography – is untenable. 2nd ed., 166 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#10)

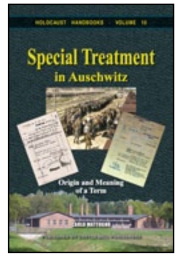
Healthcare at Auschwitz. By C. Mattogno. In extension of the above study on *Special Treatment in Auschwitz*, this study proves the extent to which the German authorities at Auschwitz tried to provide health care for the inmates. Part 1 of this book analyzes the inmates' living conditions and the various sanitary and medical measures implemented. Part 2 explores what happened to registered inmates who were "selected" or subject to "special treatment" while disabled or sick. This study shows that a lot was tried to cure these inmates, especially under the aegis of Garrison Physician Dr. Wirths. Part 3 is dedicated to Dr. this very Wirths. His reality refutes the current stereotype of SS officers. 398 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#33)

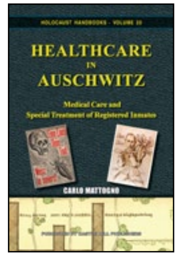
Debunking the Bunkers of Auschwitz: Black Propaganda vs. History. By Carlo Mattogno. The bunkers at Auschwitz, two former farmhouses just outside the camp's perimeter, are claimed to have been the first homicidal gas chambers at Auschwitz specifically equipped for this purpose. With the help of original German wartime files as well as revealing air photos taken by Allied reconnaissance aircraft in 1944, this study shows that these homicidal "bunkers" never existed, how the rumors about them evolved as black propaganda created by resistance groups in the camp, and how this propaganda was transformed into a false reality. 2nd ed., 292 pages, b&w ill., bibliography, index. (#11)

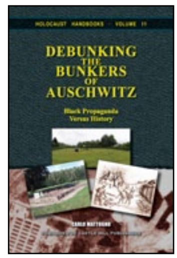
Auschwitz: The First Gassing. Rumor and Reality. By C. Mattogno. The first gassing in Auschwitz is claimed to have occurred on Sept. 3, 1941, in a basement room. The accounts reporting it are the archetypes for all later gassing accounts. This study analyzes all available sources about this alleged event. It shows that these sources contradict each other in location, date, victims etc, rendering it impossible to extract a consistent story. Original wartime documents inflict a final blow to this legend and prove without a shadow of a doubt that this legendary event never happened. 3rd ed., 190 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#20)

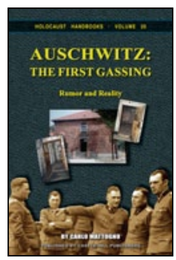
Auschwitz: Crematorium I and the Alleged Homicidal Gassings. By C. Mattogno. The morgue of Crematorium I in Auschwitz is said to be the first homicidal gas chamber there. This study investigates all statements by witnesses and analyzes hundreds of wartime documents to accurately write a history of that building. Where witnesses speak of gassings, they are either very vague or, if specific, contradict one another and are refuted by documented and material facts. The author also exposes the fraudulent attempts of mainstream historians to convert the witnesses' black propaganda into "truth" by means of selective quotes, omissions, and distortions. Mattogno proves that this building's morgue was never a homicidal gas chamber, nor could it have worked as such. 2nd ed., 152 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#21)

Auschwitz: Open Air Incinerations. By C. Mattogno. In spring and summer of 1944, 400,000 Hungarian Jews were deported to Auschwitz and allegedly murdered there in gas chambers. The Auschwitz crematoria are said to have been unable to cope with so many corpses. Therefore, every single day thousands of corpses are claimed to have been incinerated on huge pyres lit in deep trenches. The sky over Auschwitz was covered in thick smoke. This is what some witnesses want us to believe. This book examines the many testimonies regarding these incinerations and establishes whether these claims were even possible. Using air photos, physical evidence and wartime documents, the author shows that these claims are fiction. A new Appendix contains 3 papers on groundwater levels and cattle mass burnings. 2nd ed., 202 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#17)

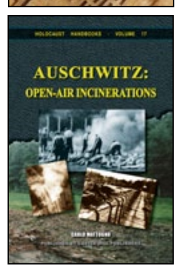








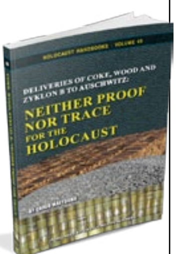




The Cremation Furnaces of Auschwitz. By Carlo Mattogno & Franco Deana. An exhaustive study of the history and technology of cremation in general and of the cremation furnaces of Auschwitz in particular. On a vast base of technical literature, extant wartime documents and material traces, the authors can establish the true nature and capacity of the Auschwitz cremation furnaces. They show that these devices were inferior make-shift versions of what was usually produced, and that their capacity to cremate corpses was lower than normal, too. 3 vols., 1198 pages, b&w and color illustrations (vols 2 & 3), bibliography, index, glossary. (#24)

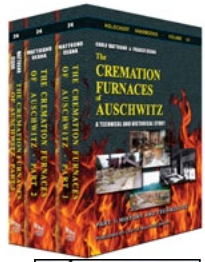
Curated Lies: The Auschwitz Museum's Misrepresentations, Distortions and Deceptions. By Carlo Mattogno. Revisionist research results have put the Polish Auschwitz Museum under pressure to answer this challenge. They've answered. This book analyzes their answer and reveals the appallingly mendacious attitude of the Auschwitz Museum authorities when presenting documents from their archives. 248 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#38)

Deliveries of Coke, Wood and Zyklon B to Auschwitz: Neither Proof Nor Trace for the Holocaust. By Carlo Mattogno. Researchers from the Auschwitz Museum tried to prove the reality of mass extermination by pointing to documents about deliveries of wood and coke as well as Zyklon B to the Auschwitz Camp. If put into the actual historical and technical context, however, these documents prove the exact opposite of what these orthodox researchers claim. Ca. 250 pages, b&w illust., bibl., index. (Scheduled for 2021; #40)

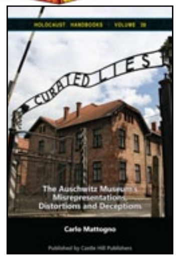


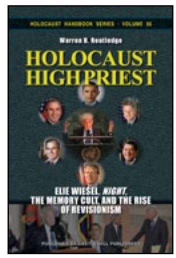
SECTION FOUR:
Witness Critique

Holocaust High Priest: Elie Wiesel, Night, the Memory Cult, and the Rise of Revisionism. By Warren B. Routledge. The first unauthorized biography of Wiesel exposes both his personal deceits and the whole myth of "the six million." It shows how Zionist control has allowed Wiesel and his fellow extremists to force leaders of many nations, the U.N. and even popes to genuflect before Wiesel as symbolic acts of subordination to World Jewry, while at the same time forcing school children to submit to Holocaust brainwashing. 468 pages, b&w illust., bibliography, index. (#30)

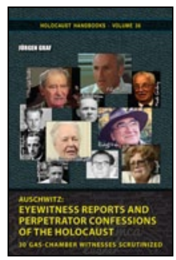


Auschwitz: Eyewitness Reports and Perpetrator Confessions. By Jürgen Graf. The traditional narrative of what transpired at the infamous Auschwitz Camp during WWII rests almost exclusively on witness testimony. This study critically scrutinizes the 30 most important of them by checking them for internal coherence, and by comparing them with one another as well as with other evidence such as wartime documents, air photos, forensic research results, and material traces. The result is devastating for the traditional narrative. 372 pages, b&w illust., bibl., index. (#36)

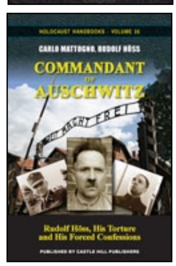


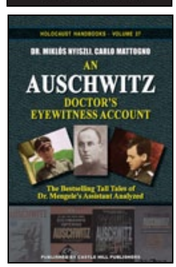


Commandant of Auschwitz: Rudolf Höss, His Torture and His Forced Confessions. By Carlo Mattogno & Rudolf Höss. From 1940 to 1943, Rudolf Höss was the commandant of the infamous Auschwitz Camp. After the war, he was captured by the British. In the following 13 months until his execution, he made 85 depositions of various kinds in which he confessed his involvement in the "Holocaust." This study first reveals how the British tortured him to extract various "confessions." Next, all of Höss's depositions are analyzed by checking his claims for internal consistency and comparing them with established historical facts. The results are eye-opening… 402 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#35)



An Auschwitz Doctor's Eyewitness Account: The Tall Tales of Dr. Mengele's Assistant Analyzed. By Miklos Nyiszli & Carlo Mattogno. Nyiszli, a Hungarian physician, ended up at Auschwitz in 1944 as Dr. Mengele's assistant. After the war he wrote a book and several other writings describing what he claimed to have experienced. To this day some traditional historians take his accounts seriously, while others reject them as grotesque lies and exaggerations. This study presents and analyzes Nyiszli's writings and skillfully separates truth from fabulous fabrication. 484 pages, b&w illustrations, bibliography, index. (#37)

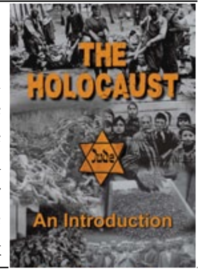




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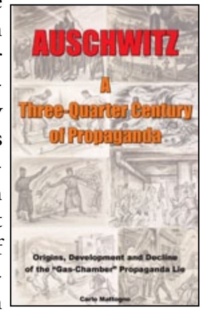
Thomas Dalton, *The Holocaust: An Introduction*



The Holocaust was perhaps the greatest crime of the 20th century. Six million Jews, we are told, died by gassing, shooting, and deprivation. But: Where did the six million figure come from? How, exactly, did the gas chambers work? Why do we have so little physical evidence from major death camps? Why haven't we found even a fraction of the six million bodies, or their ashes? Why has there been so much media suppression and governmental censorship on this topic? In a sense, the Holocaust is the greatest murder mystery in history. It is a topic of greatest importance for the present day. Let's explore the evidence, and see where it leads.

128 pp. pb, 5"×8", ill., bibl., index

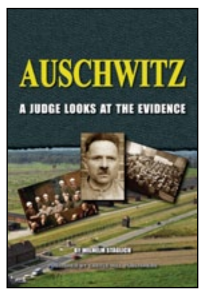
Carlo Mattogno, *Auschwitz: A Three-Quarter Century of Propaganda: Origins, Development and Decline of the "Gas Chamber" Propaganda Lie*



During the war, wild rumors were circulating about Auschwitz: that the Germans were testing new war gases; that inmates were murdered in electrocution chambers, with gas showers or pneumatic hammer systems; that living people were sent on conveyor belts directly into cremation furnaces; that oils, grease and soap were made of the mass-murder victims. Nothing of it was true. When the Soviets captured Auschwitz in early 1945, they reported that 4 million inmates were killed on electrocution conveyor belts discharging their load directly into furnaces. That wasn't true either. After the war, "witnesses" and "experts" repeated these things and added more fantasies: mass murder with gas bombs, gas chambers made of canvas; carts driving living people into furnaces; that the crematoria of Auschwitz could have cremated 400 million victims… Again, none of it was true. This book gives an overview of the many rumors, myths and lies about Auschwitz which mainstream historians today reject as untrue. It then explains by which ridiculous methods some claims about Auschwitz were accepted as true and turned into "history," although they are just as untrue.

125 pp. pb, 5"×8", ill., bibl., index, b&w ill.

Wilhelm Stäglich, *Auschwitz: A Judge Looks at the Evidence*

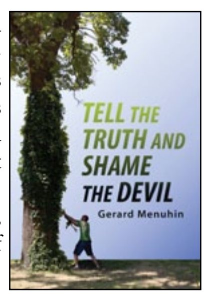


Auschwitz is the epicenter of the Holocaust, where more people are said to have been murdered than anywhere else. At this detention camp the industrialized Nazi mass murder is said to have reached its demonic pinnacle. This narrative is based on a wide range of evidence, the most important of which was presented during two trials: the International Military Tribunal of 1945/46, and the German Auschwitz Trial of 1963-1965 in Frankfurt.

The late Wilhelm Stäglich, until the mid-1970s a German judge, has so far been the only legal expert to critically analyze this evidence. His research reveals the incredibly scandalous way in which the Allied victors and later the German judicial authorities bent and broke the law in order to come to politically foregone conclusions. Stäglich also exposes the shockingly superficial way in which historians are dealing with the many incongruities and discrepancies of the historical record.

3rd edition 2015, 422 pp. pb, 6"×9", b&w ill.

Gerard Menuhin: *Tell the Truth & Shame the Devil*



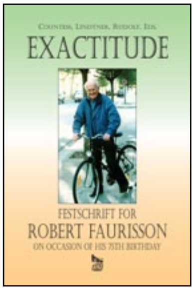
A prominent Jew from a famous family says the "Holocaust" is a wartime propaganda myth which has turned into an extortion racket. Far from bearing the sole guilt for starting WWII as alleged at Nuremberg (for which many of the surviving German leaders were hanged) Germany is mostly innocent in this respect and made numerous attempts to avoid and later to end the confrontation. During the 1930s Germany was confronted by a powerful Jewish-dominated world plutocracy out to destroy it… Yes, a prominent Jew says all this. Accept it or reject it, but be sure to read it and judge for yourself!

The author is the son of the great American-born violinist Yehudi Menuhin, who, though from a long line of rabbinical ancestors, fiercely criticized the foreign policy of the state of Israel and its repression of the Palestinians in the Holy Land.

4th edition 2017, 432 pp. pb, 6"×9", b&w ill.

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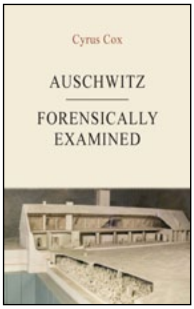
Robert H. Countess, Christian Lindtner, Germar Rudolf (eds.),
Exactitude:* *Festschrift for Prof. Dr. Robert Faurisson



On January 25, 1929, a man was born who probably deserves the title of the most courageous intellectual of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century: Robert Faurisson. With bravery and steadfastness, he challenged the dark forces of historical and political fraud with his unrelenting exposure of their lies and hoaxes surrounding the orthodox Holocaust narrative. This book describes and celebrates the man, who passed away on October 21, 2018, and his work dedicated to accuracy and marked by insubmission.

146 pp. pb, 6”×9”, b&w ill.

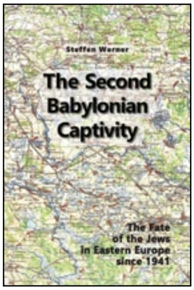
Cyrus Cox, ***Auschwitz – Forensically Examined***



It is amazing what modern forensic crime-scene investigations can find out. This is also true for the Holocaust. There are many big tomes about this, such as Rudolf’s 400+ page book on the *Chemistry of Auschwitz*, or Mattogno’s 1200-page work on the crematoria of Auschwitz. But who reads those doorstops? Here is a booklet that condenses the most-important findings of Auschwitz forensics into a nutshell, quick and easy to read. In the first section, the forensic investigations conducted so far are reviewed. In the second section, the most-important results of these studies are summarized, making them accessible to everyone. The main arguments focus on two topics. The first centers around the poison allegedly used at Auschwitz for mass murder: Zyklon B. Did it leave any traces in masonry where it was used? Can it be detected to this day? The second topic deals with mass cremations. Did the crematoria of Auschwitz have the claimed huge capacity claimed for them? Do air photos taken during the war confirm witness statements on huge smoking pyres? Find the answers to these questions in this booklet, together with many references to source material and further reading. The third section reports on how the establishment has reacted to these research results.

124 pp. pb., 5“×8“, b&w ill., bibl., index

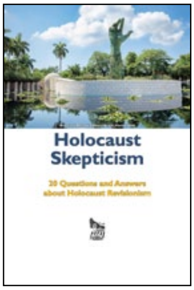
Steffen Werner, ***The Second Babylonian Captivity: The Fate of the Jews in Eastern Europe since 1941***



“But if they were not murdered, where did the six million deported Jews end up?” This is a standard objection to the revisionist thesis that the Jews were not killed in extermination camps. It demands a well-founded response. While researching an entirely different topic, Steffen Werner accidentally stumbled upon the most-peculiar demographic data of Byelorussia. Years of research subsequently revealed more and more evidence which eventually allowed him to substantiate a breathtaking and sensational proposition: The Third Reich did indeed deport many of the Jews of Europe to Eastern Europe in order to settle them there “in the swamp.” This book, first published in German in 1990, was the first well-founded work showing what really happened to the Jews deported to the East by the National Socialists, how they have fared since, and who, what and where they are “now” (1990). It provides context and purpose for hitherto-obscure and seemingly arbitrary historical events and quite obviates all need for paranormal events such as genocide, gas chambers, and all their attendant horrifics. With a preface by Germar Rudolf with references to more-recent research results in this field of study confirming Werner’s thesis.

190 pp. pb, 6”×9”, b&w ill., bibl., index

Germar Rudolf, ***Holocaust Skepticism: 20 Questions and Answers about Holocaust Revisionism***

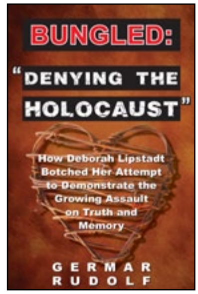


This 15-page brochure introduces the novice to the concept of Holocaust revisionism, and answers 20 tough questions, among them: What does Holocaust revisionism claim? Why should I take Holocaust revisionism more seriously than the claim that the earth is flat? How about the testimonies by survivors and confessions by perpetrators? What about the pictures of corpse piles in the camps? Why does it matter how many Jews were killed by the Nazis, since even 1,000 would have been too many? … Glossy full-color brochure. PDF file free of charge available at www.HolocaustHandbooks.com, Option “Promotion”. This item is *not* copyright-protected. Hence, you can do with it whatever you want: download, post, email, print, multiply, hand out, sell…

15 pp., stapled, 8.5“×11“, full-color throughout

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Germar Rudolf, ***Bungled: "Denying the Holocaust"*** ***How Deborah Lipstadt Botched Her Attempt to Demonstrate the Growing Assault on Truth and Memory***



With her book *Denying the Holocaust*, Deborah Lipstadt tried to show the flawed methods and extremist motives of "Holocaust deniers." This book demonstrates that Dr. Lipstadt clearly has neither understood the principles of science and scholarship, nor has she any clue about the historical topics she is writing about. She misquotes, mistranslates, misrepresents, misinterprets, and makes a plethora of wild claims without backing them up with anything. Rather than dealing thoroughly with factual arguments, Lipstadt's book is full of *ad hominem* attacks on her opponents. It is an exercise in anti-intellectual pseudo-scientific arguments, an exhibition of ideological radicalism that rejects anything which contradicts its preset conclusions. **F for FAIL**

2nd ed., 224 pp. pb, 5"×8", bibl., index, b&w ill.

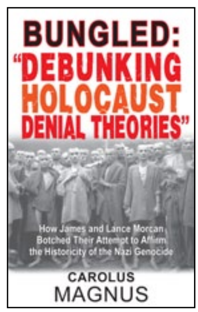
Carolus Magnus, ***Bungled: "Denying History". How Michael Shermer and Alex Grobman Botched Their Attempt to Refute Those Who Say the Holocaust Never Happened***



Skeptic Magazine editor Michael Shermer and Alex Grobman from the Simon Wiesenthal Center wrote a book in 2000 which they claim is "a thorough and thoughtful answer to all the claims of the Holocaust deniers." In 2009, a new "updated" edition appeared with the same ambitious goal. In the meantime, revisionists had published some 10,000 pages of archival and forensic research results. Would their updated edition indeed answer all the revisionist claims? In fact, Shermer and Grobman completely ignored the vast amount of recent scholarly studies and piled up a heap of falsifications, contortions, omissions, and fallacious interpretations of the evidence. Finally, what the authors claim to have demolished is not revisionism but a ridiculous parody of it. They ignored the known unreliability of their cherry-picked selection of evidence, utilizing unverified and incestuous sources, and obscuring the massive body of research and all the evidence that dooms their project to failure. **F for FAIL**

162 pp. pb, 5"×8", bibl., index, b&w ill.

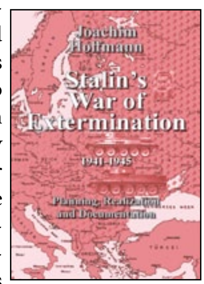
Carolus Magnus, ***Bungled: "Debunking Holocaust Denial Theories". How James and Lance Morcan Botched Their Attempt to Affirm the Historicity of the Nazi Genocide***



The novelists and movie-makers James and Lance Morcan have produced a book "to end [Holocaust] denial once and for all." To do this, "no stone was left unturned" to verify historical assertions by presenting "a wide array of sources" meant "to shut down the debate deniers wish to create. One by one, the various arguments Holocaust deniers use to try to discredit wartime records are carefully scrutinized and then systematically disproven." It's a lie. First, the Morcans completely ignored the vast amount of recent scholarly studies published by revisionists; they didn't even identify them. Instead, they engaged in shadowboxing, creating some imaginary, bogus "revisionist" scarecrow which they then tore to pieces. In addition, their knowledge even of their own side's source material was dismal, and the way they backed up their misleading or false claims was pitifully inadequate. **F for FAIL.**

144 pp. pb, 5"×8", bibl., index, b&w ill.

Joachim Hoffmann, ***Stalin's War of Extermination 1941-1945***



A German government historian documents Stalin's murderous war against the German army and the German people. Based on the author's lifelong study of German and Russian military records, this book reveals the Red Army's grisly record of atrocities against soldiers and civilians, as ordered by Stalin. Since the 1920s, Stalin planned to invade Western Europe to initiate the "World Revolution." He prepared an attack which was unparalleled in history. The Germans noticed Stalin's aggressive intentions, but they underestimated the strength of the Red Army. What unfolded was the most-cruel war in history. This book shows how Stalin and his Bolshevik henchman used unimaginable violence and atrocities to break any resistance in the Red Army and to force their unwilling soldiers to fight against the Germans. The book explains how Soviet propagandists incited their soldiers to unlimited hatred against everything German, and he gives the reader a short but extremely unpleasant glimpse into what happened when these Soviet soldiers finally reached German soil in 1945: A gigantic wave of looting, arson, rape, torture, and mass murder…

428 pp. pb, 6"×9", bibl., index, b&w ill.

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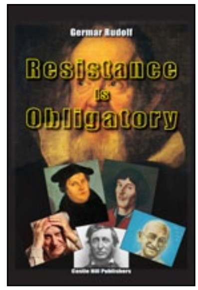
Udo Walendy, ***Who Started World War II:*** ***Truth for a War-Torn World***



For seven decades, mainstream historians have insisted that Germany was the main, if not the sole culprit for unleashing World War II in Europe. In the present book this myth is refuted. There is available to the public today a great number of documents on the foreign policies of the Great Powers before September 1939 as well as a wealth of literature in the form of memoirs of the persons directly involved in the decisions that led to the outbreak of World War II. Together, they made possible Walendy's present mosaic-like reconstruction of the events before the outbreak of the war in 1939. This book has been published only after an intensive study of sources, taking the greatest care to minimize speculation and inference. The present edition has been translated completely anew from the German original and has been slightly revised.

500 pp. pb, 6"×9", index, bibl., b&w ill.

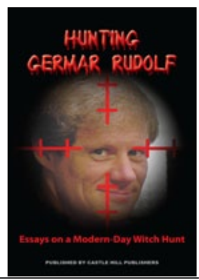
Germar Rudolf: ***Resistance is Obligatory!***



In 2005 Rudolf, a peaceful dissident and publisher of revisionist literature, was kidnapped by the U.S. government and deported to Germany. There the local lackey regime staged a show trial against him for his historical writings. Rudolf was not permitted to defend his historical opinions, as the German penal law prohibits this. Yet he defended himself anyway: 7 days long Rudolf held a speech in the court room, during which he proved systematically that only the revisionists are scholarly in their attitude, whereas the Holocaust orthodoxy is merely pseudo-scientific. He then explained in detail why it is everyone's obligation to resist, without violence, a government which throws peaceful dissident into dungeons. When Rudolf tried to publish his public defence speech as a book from his prison cell, the public prosecutor initiated a new criminal investigation against him. After his probation time ended in 2011, he dared publish this speech anyway…

2nd ed. 2016, 378 pp. pb, 6"×9", b&w ill.

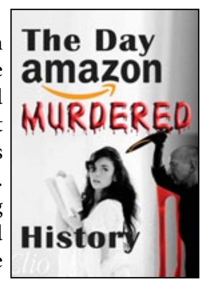
Germar Rudolf, ***Hunting Germar Rudolf:*** ***Essays on a Modern-Day Witch Hunt***



German-born revisionist activist, author and publisher Germar Rudolf describes which events made him convert from a Holocaust believer to a Holocaust skeptic, quickly rising to a leading personality within the revisionist movement. This in turn unleashed a tsunami of persecution against him: loss of his job, denied PhD exam, destruction of his family, driven into exile, slandered by the mass media, literally hunted, caught, put on a show trial where filing motions to introduce evidence is illegal under the threat of further proseuction, and finally locked up in prison for years for nothing else than his peaceful yet controversial scholarly writings. In several essays, Rudolf takes the reader on a journey through an absurd world of government and societal persecution which most of us could never even fathom actually exists.…

304 pp. pb, 6"×9", bibl., index, b&w ill.

Germar Rudolf, ***The Day Amazon Murdered History***



Amazon is the world's biggest book retailer. They dominate the U.S. and several foreign markets. Pursuant to the 1998 declaration of Amazon's founder Jeff Bezos to offer "the good, the bad and the ugly," customers once could buy every book that was in print and was legal to sell. However, in early 2017, a series of anonymous bomb threats against Jewish community centers occurred in the U.S., fueling a campaign by Jewish groups to coax Amazon into banning revisionist writings, false portraing them as anti-Semitic. On March 6, 2017, Amazon caved in and banned more than 100 books with dissenting viewpoints on the Holocaust. In April 2017, an Israeli Jew was arrested for having placed the fake bomb threats, a paid "service" he had offered for years. But that did not change Amazon's mind. Its stores remain closed for history books Jewish lobby groups disapprove of. This book accompanies the documentary of the same title. Both reveal how revisionist publications had become so powerfully convincing that the powers that be resorted to what looks like a dirty false-flag operation in order to get these books banned from Amazon…

128 pp. pb, 5"×8", bibl., b&w ill.

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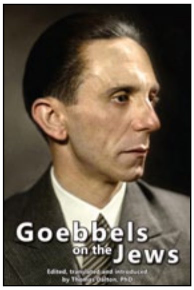
Thomas Dalton, ***Hitler on the Jews***



That Adolf Hitler spoke out against the Jews is beyond obvious. But of the thousands of books and articles written on Hitler, virtually none quotes Hitler's exact words on the Jews. The reason for this is clear: Those in positions of influence have incentives to present a simplistic picture of Hitler as a blood-thirsty tyrant. However, Hitler's take on the Jews is far more complex and sophisticated. In this book, for the first time, you can make up your own mind by reading nearly every idea that Hitler put forth about the Jews, in considerable detail and in full context. This is the first book ever to compile his remarks on the Jews. As you will discover, Hitler's analysis of the Jews, though hostile, is erudite, detailed, and – surprise, surprise – largely aligns with events of recent decades. There are many lessons here for the modern-day world to learn.

200 pp. pb, 6"×9", index, bibl.

Thomas Dalton, ***Goebbels on the Jews***



From the age of 26 until his death in 1945, Joseph Goebbels kept a near-daily diary. From it, we get a detailed look at the attitudes of one of the highest-ranking men in Nazi Germany. Goebbels shared Hitler's dislike of the Jews, and likewise wanted them totally removed from the Reich territory. Ultimately, Goebbels and others sought to remove the Jews completely from the Eurasian land mass—perhaps to the island of Madagascar. This would be the "final solution" to the Jewish Question. Nowhere in the diary does Goebbels discuss any Hitler order to kill the Jews, nor is there any reference to extermination camps, gas chambers, or any methods of systematic mass-murder. Goebbels acknowledges that Jews did indeed die by the thousands; but the range and scope of killings evidently fall far short of the claimed figure of 6 million. This book contains, for the first time, every significant diary entry relating to the Jews or Jewish policy. Also included are partial or full citations of 10 major essays by Goebbels on the Jews.

274 pp. pb, 6"×9", index, bibl.

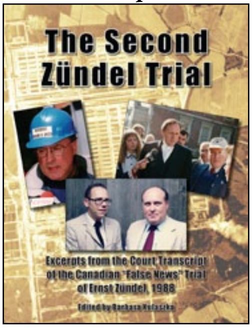
Thomas Dalton, ***The Jewish Hand in the World Wars***



For many centuries, Jews have had a negative reputation in many countries. The reasons given are plentiful, but less well known is their involvement in war. When we examine the causal factors for war, and look at its primary beneficiaries, we repeatedly find a Jewish presence. Throughout history, Jews have played an exceptionally active role in promoting and inciting war. With their long-notorious influence in government, we find recurrent instances of Jews promoting hardline stances, being uncompromising, and actively inciting people to hatred. Jewish misanthropy, rooted in Old Testament mandates, and combined with a ruthless materialism, has led them, time and again, to instigate warfare if it served their larger interests. This fact explains much about the present-day world. In this book, Thomas Dalton examines in detail the Jewish hand in the two world wars. Along the way, he dissects Jewish motives and Jewish strategies for maximizing gain amidst warfare, reaching back centuries.

197 pp. pb, 6"×9", index, bibl.

Barbara Kulaszka (ed.), ***The Second Zündel Trial:*** ***Excerpts from the Transcript***



In 1988. German-Canadian Ernst Zündel was for on trial a second time for allegedly spreading "false news" about the Holocaust. Zündel staged a magnificent defense in an attempt to prove that revisionist concepts of "the Holocaust" are essentially correct. Although many of the key players have since passed away, including Zündel, this historic trial keeps having an impact. It inspired major research efforts as expounded in the series *Holocaust Handbooks*. In contrast to the First Zündel Trial of 1985, the second trial had a much greater impact internationally, mainly due to the ***Leuchter Report***, the first independent forensic research performed on Auschwitz, which was endorsed on the witness stand by British bestselling historian David Irving. The present book features the essential contents of this landmark trial with all the gripping, at-times-dramatic details. When Amazon.com decided to ban this 1992 book on a landmark trial about the "Holocaust", we decided to put it back in print, lest censorship prevail…

498 pp. pb, 8.5"×11", bibl., index, b&w ill.

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